

# Environmentalism: a good habit

There's never been a better time than now to start caring about our planet



GRAHAM  
LETTNER

Not because of absurd New Year's resolutions, but owing mostly to general social grooming, some of my worst habits have been permanently discarded. Not just sent to the penalty box, but ejected from the game of life. Things like using an outdated LRT ticket as bus fare, or popping my collar like I was dressing for a Lacoste ad.

Even more fortunately, society is also able to permanently jettison some really bad ideas and habits. This idea of societal self-improvement is an important way of measuring social progress. An example is universal suffrage, now a permanent principle of Western democracies. I can think of no circumstance where denying women the right to vote would be debatable. Segregation of public facilities—washrooms, buses, water fountains—on the basis of skin colour is also permanently taboo.

To attain these fundamental rights it took the combined ideas and efforts of thousands of women, blacks and other supporters for many years, often with little initial success. It would be devastating if it weren't so bizarre that such a righteous causes as human equality would be so vigorously opposed.

But a new struggle is emerging.

Certainly there are still many injustices committed against women and minorities that need to be overcome; as this important work continues, however, the struggle for universal environmental rights and truly sustainable development is coming into its own. I say "truly sustainable development" since "sustainable development" is a line so often used as verbal nonsense by polluting industries that its actual meaning is often diluted.

**Twenty years from now we will be able to look back and say, "How did we ever justify the ecological carnage that was the oil sands, or our cities' willy-nilly urban sprawl, or even dreaming up the idea of a Hummer?"**

This movement is indeed overdue. Our planet has been absorbing years of our neglect and abuse, but we have now reached the point at which keeping our bad environmental habits is no longer an option. It may have finally become apparent to our societal worldview that another century of the same outdated environmental attitudes will have drastic and dangerous consequences.

This movement, being inherently

just and good like other movements before it, will obviously be opposed to the utmost degree by those who bask in the glow of the status quo, sipping cold drinks on tropical beaches. Still, I think it's inevitable as social unease grows when confronted by rising temperatures, alarming weather patterns and Al Gore documentaries.

Through the work of a new environmental movement, it may be possible for society to permanently move beyond outmoded ways of thinking as it has before. Twenty years from now we will be able to look back and say, "How did we ever justify the ecological carnage that was the oil sands, or our cities' willy-nilly urban sprawl, or even dreaming up the idea of a Hummer?" None of these environmental vices are predestined. It's simply our foundational paradigm of environmental recklessness that makes them reality.

It's not necessarily the case that this paradigm will change, however. In the face of disaster, now-extinct cultures clung more tightly to their flawed worldview as comfort in the face of major upheaval. Yet it's undeniable that our environmental attitudes must change for our society to progress and improve at best—or survive at worst. With climate-change naysayers increasingly ostracized and previous uncertain predictions now becoming reality, the time is now for an environmental movement of super-sized proportions. So maybe joining this movement is something to put on your list of resolutions too—right behind buying that toothbrush.

# Don't be afraid to use the C-word—commission



LEAH  
ANDERSON

Commission is a double-edged word. To a girl looking for a kick-ass retail job, it's the gateway to above-average wages. To a consumer, it often denotes selfish and uncaring salespeople. Yet I will defend to the death—or at least to \$7/hour—my status as a commissioned employee.

Yes, commission is indeed a beautiful thing. Especially when compared with its ugly sister, that other form of retail compensation: minimum wage. Having toiled in retail since I was 15 years old, I've seen the good, the bad and the shitty of customer service. The shocker? You get what you pay for. At minimum wage, employees give just that—the minimum. After all, they have zero motivation to push themselves to excel in their positions.

Minimum-wagers know that few people will work in Alberta for less than ten bucks an hour these days, so they pick up the perk of not having to care very much whether shoppers find what they're looking for. They get paid no matter how many angry letters you write or how many times the manager is paged. They also don't see a cent more if you're so impressed with them you have a spontaneous orgasm.

On the commission side of the fence,

the cash is much greener. Little-known fact: if you suck at your job on commission, you don't last very long. After all, six per cent of nothing is still nothing. Keeping the store clean helps your paycheque. Making sure customers don't have to go looking for you will help your bottom line as well. Being helpful, courteous and good at your job ... well, you get the idea. Incidentally, all of these pay-boosting behaviours have an unexpected side effect: they make shopping easier and improve customer service wherever they appear.

The fact is, any pushy or aggressive worker in the retail environment is automatically labelled as commission-based in an attempt to disparage their good-natured service.

The truth is, most stores that I shop in don't keep pushy people around, because it doesn't make long-term fiscal sense. This is because in "pushing" a customer to buy, the store will incur such a loss of revenue from word-of-mouth reputation that it will always outweigh the short-term sale. Not to mention that returned product comes out of the same paycheque it contributed to, so it's in the associate's best interest to make sure you don't just buy something but keep it. That drives them to ensure you are happy with whatever you choose.

Construction rackets, condoms and Chlamydia are all C-words best left on the down-low. But as for commission, the fact that you are being rewarded for giving customers what they deserve should be shouted from the rooftops until the word is freed of its shameful connotations once and for all.

## Gold Key Society Recognition Award



The Students' Union Gold Key Award was created by the Students' Union President Tevie Miller in 1950 and is intended to recognize the best on campus; those who contribute most to making the University of Alberta a better place through their outstanding work in extra-curricular activities. This honour is bestowed on those people who contribute greatly to the campus community.

All members of the campus community are eligible for the award with the exception of the Students' Union Executive. The Gold Key Awards Committee shall have the discretion to award a number of Gold Key Recognition Awards. Notwithstanding other involvements, participation in Student Government, Volunteer Activities, Student Organizations, Student Services, and Community Involvement may be considered.

**Application deadline is January 23, 2007 at 5pm**

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# Try a little harder, ladies



MIKE  
KENDRICK

There's a disturbingly high degree of self-consciousness in the world. People look at what they see on TV and tell themselves that they'll never have the full, luscious lips of Angelina Jolie or the comedic genius of Gilbert Gottfried. Everyone beats themselves up and feels inadequate because they think they can't live up to the standards set by society. If it's not television making us feel bad about ourselves, then it's magazines or the Internet. Some would even have the nerve to argue that pornography creates an artificially inflated precedent of what a woman should be. Although, in this case, I have to agree. Ladies, you're just not living up to those expectations.

See, just like women, us guys have expectations too. What kind of double standard are we setting for our children if we make it socially acceptable for a girl to blow off a potential mate at a bar because he doesn't look like Brad Pitt, but then get all bitchy if a man wants a little more than Janet Reno? All I'm saying is that you ladies should really take a look at yourselves before you start passing judgment on us fellas.

Don't get me wrong. I really don't expect that any woman could ever have the hourglass figure and airbrushed perfection of Jenna Jameson—she's actually a robot. But come on, girls, we're living in the future! Us men have a much broader view of the world that we did even 20 years ago. Who needs to be labelled a sex pervert by sneaking

“Us men have a much broader view of the world that we did even 20 years ago. Who needs to be labelled a sex pervert by sneaking into the Adult Video store at 3am on a blizzardy Wednesday morning when more porn than any man could ever safely consume is at his unnaturally well-moisturized fingertips online?”

into the Adult Video store at 3am on a blizzardy Wednesday morning when more porn than any man could ever safely consume is at his unnaturally well-moisturized fingertips online?

Most guys are born with the uncanny but natural ability to detect and locate naked ladies from miles away. It's a skill that becomes refined in adolescence through the plethora of *National Geographic* features and late-night Showcase broadcasts available to the susceptible mind of the teenage boy. What else are they supposed to do while their 13-year-old female counterparts are reading *Cosmo*? Play video games and listen to Limp Bizkit? Please.

Through years of rigorous practice, men become trained to recognize those traits that they find attractive in a woman. Some are breast guys, some are butt guys—I'm an elbow guy myself. Whatever one's twisted fetish may be, rest assured, there's some sort of video or website out there to tickle your fancy.

The beautiful thing about the shallow objectification of these hard-working ladies is that through pornography, guys aren't made to feel guilty about forgetting a woman's name or what she even looked like five minutes later. Instead, he can focus on the more important task at hand—that of building his own personal image of an ideal woman from a grotesque collection of Frankenstein-like parts from the bottomless toy

chest of digital smut.

It may sound like I'm setting an “impossible goal” for any “real woman” to live up to. I'm really not. I invite any woman to take a look at the fine selection of adult entertainment offered on the Internet today. Wade through the waters of silicone and airbrushing, and you'll find yourself in a vast paradise of down-to-earth girls who aren't afraid to take their clothes off. It's a far better vacation spot than the Bikini Atoll, where the girls are sexy without looking slutty. Well, as not-slutty as you can look for doing the nasty in front of the whole world.

We just need to stop listening to what our television boxes tell us. Bob Barker may have noble intent by urging us to spay and neuter our pets, but trying to emulate the look of the one-dimensional characters on *Days of Our Lives* won't land you anywhere but the anorexia ward. Real peoples' opinions aren't represented on TV anyway—that's why you're reading this in a newspaper.

So put down that \$800 dress, and nuts to your fruit and yogurt diet. There's a lot more to be learned from pornography than that kinky thing your boyfriend wants you to try. If more women started taking beauty tips from *Suicide Girls* rather than *America's Next Top Model*, we'd have a lot less self-consciousness to worry about, and a lot more time to focus on getting Gilbert Gottfried the fuck off the airwaves.

# It's Saddam shame he's gone

With the world's most notorious dictator hanging from the gallows, which Middle-Eastern tyrant are we going to collectively scapegoat now?



CONAL  
PIERSE

It's now 2007, and what better way to have rung out the old year than with the swinging corpse of Saddam Hussein. The world is safe again, but for how long? Well, apparently until a video of his demise was leaked to the Internet for the enjoyment of all.

I will admit that I've seen this video. The camera work was shoddy with no real thought to composition and the lighting was terrible, and to be honest, “Yackety Sax” would not be out of place as a soundtrack.

But this is the reason that they went to war with Iraq, right? This was the mission they meant to accomplish: to liberate the people and bring this tyrant to justice. This is the moment that we've all been waiting for, and it ended up being more disappointing than your first handjob.

Truthfully, when I saw him die it felt as if we were hanging Shredder or Dr Claw. This guy has been the big bad boogeyman for as long as I can

remember, and now that he's finally dead, there's a void where that one true symbol of evil once was—a void that I don't feel anyone at present is capable of filling.

**Saddam built 48 palaces after the Gulf War alone. Now there was a man who knew how to party, even if those parties more often than not ended up in the rape rooms. I guess you could say he was the frat boy of dictators.**

Let's face it, Saddam was a guy who knew how to do evil right. He's not the kind of guy who made empty threats; he's the dude who admitted defeat by lighting Kuwait on fire. The only hot air he was full of was mustard gas.

Despite his courtroom antics and animated denouncing of the authority of the Iraqi Special Tribunal, you've got to admit that the guy was

a snappy dresser. Quite frankly, Kim Jong-il should take a fashion tip or two out of Saddam's book. Old Kim looks like he was dressed in the dark, and the only equipment his barber had on hand were his teeth. The whole bottleneck glasses look is something more befitting of a sidekick than the real deal.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad seems like a good candidate, but I just don't believe his ego is big enough. How many palaces has he built for himself? I'm sorry, but if you want to hold ground as the evil ruler of my heart, then you've got to have at least six.

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We need to find ourselves a new ruthless dictator to be afraid of so we can get past the overbearing feeling of “what now?” Something new to keep us all up at night wondering when the other shoe is going to drop, to give us a new reason to keep on thinking that we're the good guys and not some pompous bully, as that douche in a beret sipping chai tea would like you to believe. Fuck that guy. And fuck anyone who tells you otherwise.

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## SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

### Curse of the Golden Flower

Directed by Zhang Yimou  
Starring Chow-Yun Fat and Gong Li  
Princess Theatre  
Opens Friday, 12 January

Zhang Yimou, director of *Hero* and *House of Flying Daggers*, directs another historical drama focused on the trials and tribulations of the dynasties of China's past. This time set in the Tang dynasty in the tenth century, Yimou's film, like his previous works, looks at China in a simpler time, when wars were fought using intricate wire work, allowing people to fly spinning through the air while fighting and jumping off of buildings in slow motion, floating to earth and landing unhurt. The warriors' elegance in running across the tops of their enemies' heads in the face of fervent choreographed battle was well documented throughout Chinese history and led to Yimou's inspiration.

### Dudley Dawson

With Down the Hatch and Sonance  
Saturday, 13 January at 9pm  
Sidetrack Café  
\$7 at door

As far as adjectives describing punk or metal bands go, "adrenaline-fueled" may be the most overused. But while many very non-punk bands such as Blink 182 and Good Charlotte have had the descriptor thrown over their music like so much confetti, Edmonton's Dudley Dawson actually has the riffs to back up this claim. The quartet of punkers will rage with hormonal intensity at the Sidetrack on Saturday to promote their new album, *Zero Hour*.

### The Ramblin' Ambassadors

With Cordoba  
Saturday, 13 January at 8pm  
Victory Lounge, 18+  
\$8 at door

Generally finding themselves placed near the back of the UN General Assembly due to their excessive monopolizing of the floor, the Ambassadors took the hint and spent their time during their dull international meetings to sharpen their guitars and silence their voices. The Vancouver band was founded by Brent J Cooper, guitarist for Calgary rockabilly enthusiasts Huevos Rancheros, and takes their instrumental-only guitar rock to the Victory Lounge, a performance certified 100 per cent vocal ramblin' free.

### At The Stroke Of Madness

With The Sessions and In Due Time  
Tuesday, 16 January at 9pm  
Sidetrack Cafe  
\$7 at door

When the bell tolls midnight and the raven screams "Nevermore," you will be At The Stroke Of Madness. As you slowly descend into the soul-crushing pit of insomnia and psychosis, take a moment to lighten up with the acoustic rock melodies of this Edmonton band. They "let the music do the talking," creating a sound that speaks to you like a live, beating heart under the floorboards.

### The nancy ray-guns

With Guests  
Wednesday, 17 January at 9pm  
Sidetrack Café

Never before—and likely never again—will a parody of a former First Lady's name be used to describe a band that combines two elements destined at some point to meet: agriculture and funk music. Of this we can be certain. Billed as "Saskatchewan's Agrarian Funk Band," though that restriction could likely be loosened to include the rest of the world as well, The nancy ray-guns combine equal parts George Clinton and John Deere for a night that should get your wheat grooving.

JOHN KMECH

A ghostly presence for the past few weeks



# Playing musical leapfrog

According to Mahogany Frog's Graham Epp, the group is renowned for its ribbeting performances

### Mahogany Frog

With Daydream Exchange  
Friday, 12 January at 9pm  
Sidetrack Café

JOHN KMECH  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

The thrill of a live music performance rarely involves models cavorting down a runway sporting functioning buzz saws and routers; however, for Winnipeg's Mahogany Frog, this is only one of the atypical visual aspects they employ during live shows, an element that gives a whole new meaning to experimental music.

"Earlier on, when we were younger and still living in Saskatoon, we did some pretty crazy shows," explains Graham Epp, the band's frontman and multi-instrumentalist. "We did a power tools fashion show one time where people came in—I don't even know what they wore for clothes—but they had power tools that were on and they were swinging them around. So that was really kind of scary."

Although flying portable belt sanders might seem a tad risky, the band can't help it; creating chaos, especially through the blending of rock, jazz, electronica samplings and Moog synthesizers—one of their key instruments—is vital to the Mahogany Frog experience.

Eye candy never hurts, either. Mahogany Frog has used film, spoken word, performance art and ethnic food to accent their stage presence. Epp explains that they're currently focusing more on the physical art the band is capable of creating, which includes, according to his description, the intense use of a "rock face."

"We're actually not working on anything right now, as far as visuals are concerned. I've obviously never seen us play, but [Jean Paul Perron], our drummer, is definitely the visual focal point

of the band," Epp laughs.

"I do see him, when I turn around. He's standing up a lot while he's drumming. He's got a good drumming face. He's definitely an entertaining guy to watch. The rest of us are probably just making really rude guitar faces or something. But yeah, that's what we rely on now. I mean, if we could always bring an arsenal of power tools along [on tour], we would, but then we'd have to leave some of our synthesizers at home."

**"We did a power tools fashion show one time where people came in—I don't even know what they wore for clothes—but they had power tools that were on and they were swinging them around. So that was really kind of scary."**

GRAHAM EPP

Epp formed Mahogany Frog with his high-school friend Jesse Warkentin back in 1998. After going through several lineup changes through the years, including a brief stint as a sextet, the band has settled in as a four-piece, with Perron on drums and Scott Ellenberger on bass and trumpet. While Epp and Warkentin began as a psychedelic rock group, Perron introduced the synthesizers and samplers when he joined, and the band never looked back. However, although Mahogany Frog cranks out a sound that's akin to the Mahavishnu Orchestra updated for the digital age, Epp insists that when writing the songs, he never consciously creates experimental music.

"I write a lot of the progressions and the melodies, then I'll bring it to the band and it always develops into something else," Epp notes. "It's mostly just a combination of the four of us. If we played these songs in a different band, they might sound very straightforward."

In 2005, the band released *Mahogany Frog On Blue*, which featured a change of pace for the band with shorter, faster compositions than their previous releases. Epp explains that this was mostly due to the fact that they were preparing the disc for vinyl release.

"We were limited to how much music we could fit on there, so the reason the tracks are little, quick rock and roll songs is partly due to the time constraint," Epp says. "We've always wanted to have our music on vinyl. We're going to do that for the next record too, even though the songs are going to be longer."

Their songwriting also showcases another side of Mahogany Frog: their sense of humour. Since the quartet's music is, described in their own words, "stuffed full of no vocals," their subtle witticisms are embedded within the guitar lines and synth progressions. The band's quirkiness could be symbolized by their love for a certain British comedic genius. So just what is Mahogany Frog's favorite Peter Sellers movie, you ask?

"Ooh, I'd say either *The Magic Christian* or *The Party*," Epp says. "We don't want to take ourselves too seriously, since we're playing pretty strange music. There's a lot of little inside jokes we have in our songs, a little circus bit here or there. We have a sense of humour, whether it's good or not."

Indeed, these are humble words, especially coming from a man whose band hosted and survived the runway show of a carpenter's dreams.

"I remember one guy wearing a dress and swinging a skill saw around," recalls Epp with a chuckle. "I was very afraid."



# Love's labour's unveiled

## **The Painted Veil**

Directed by John Curran  
Starring Edward Norton, Naomi Watts, Liev Schreiber, Toby Jones and Dianna Rigg  
Opens 12 January  
Garneau Theatre

**EDMON ROTEA**  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

The movie poster for the new Warner Independent film *The Painted Veil* provides the statement, "Sometimes the greatest journey is the distance between two people," and director John Curran satisfies this message with intense drama, realism and beautiful cinematography.

Based on the novel of the same name by W Somerset Maugham, *The Painted Veil* is the third incarnation of the author's classic work—preceded by the 1934 version starring Greta Garbo and the 1957 film *The Seventh Sin* starring Eleanor Parker. Yet, even though the film is the result of a long line of remakes released in a market that's often flooded with dramatic romances set amongst the backdrop of the early 20th century, the movie delivers a convincing plot.

Kitty (Naomi Watts), a 30-something adult child who's the daughter of a wealthy, upper-class British family, enjoys her life of privilege—a life that involves partying, playing the piano all day and living the easygoing relaxed lifestyle of a noble heiress. However, Kitty still lives at home with her folks and remains dependent on them for financial support—and her parents long for her to find the proper suitor to take over the financial burden.



Enter respectable middle-class civil servant Dr Walter Fane (Edward Norton). After a "chance" encounter at a party hosted by Kitty's father, and a "surprise" first-date the following day, Walter and Kitty soon marry for all the wrong reasons.

Unfortunately, things worsen between the newlyweds when Walter discovers that Kitty has been unfaithful and threatens divorce. Longing for companionship—and perhaps revenge—Walter coerces Kitty to move to a remote village in the Chinese countryside, a region ripe with outbreaks of cholera and anti-imperial nationalist sentiment. What ensues afterwards is the staple plot of most historical romance dramas: a relationship that flourishes in a foreign remote land despite great adversity, hardship, tragedy and the human misery that the two lovers must endure.

Aside from the two leading actors, the third impressive agent in *The Painted Veil* is arguably not a person but the film's setting, the remote countryside of 1920's China. Audiences will be immersed by

the scenic vistas that enveloped the troubled couple. From the rundown Fane homestead surrounded by rivers and waterfalls to the nearby small town where nationalist fervor is as contagious as cholera itself, viewers will take a cinematographic vacation throughout rural China.

The only minor complaint with *The Painted Veil* is the pacing of the film itself. Although it's over two hours long, the film is quite rapid during the first few minutes (which is composed of a series of confusing flashbacks between past and present events) and gets tedious during its later parts—especially when Kitty expresses her disinterest and boredom during her charter days living a lonesome existence in a foreign land.

Yet, like the message on the movie poster, *The Painted Veil* is another historical, romantic epic that will take North American movie audiences on two journeys—one towards a remote foreign land, and the other towards a relationship that begins with superficiality and artificiality but ends with genuine love and tragedy.



## **Red Ram**

*Stars Ablaze*  
Independent  
[www.redram.ca](http://www.redram.ca)

**JOHN KMECH**  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

There's no doubt that Red Ram's debut album is ambitious. Combining acoustic rock, electronica and hip-hop beats around a core of grunge, *Stars Ablaze* is a solid, highly textured album.



## **Andre Ethier**

*Secondathallum*  
Paperbag Records  
[www.myspace.com/andreethier](http://www.myspace.com/andreethier)

**PAUL BLINOV**  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Andre Ethier's curiously titled second solo outing finds him drifting through ragtime piano, heartfelt vocals and even some fierce, hard-rock drumming.

Although they usually blend choice musical elements well, the layering creates an uneven feel, particularly when switching from hip-hop beats to a pure rock tune. It's understandable for a new band still trying to find their niche and it should not slight Red Ram's effort.

*Stars Ablaze* features many moments of veritable catchiness and toe-tapping grooves, but the band's best moments are when they capitalize on vocal harmonies, such as on "Play the Game" and "Stars Ablaze." The title track features all of the aforementioned musical expressions, particularly the deep, grunge like vocals of lead singer Mark Feduk contrasted with the soft, angelic voice of guest Amy van Keeken. Really, it's this beautiful juxtaposition that's the highlight of the album. If Red Ram's effort is any indication, then there are greener pastures ahead for the band—just as long as they can tighten up their diverse, complex talents.

"In With the Prim" is the album's driving centerpiece; cymbal crashes and Ethier's howling vocals compete with pounding piano in a battle of "what's the catchiest part of the song?" It's like one of those kiddy competitions where everybody wins; the whole messy package gets stuck in your head and stuck on repeat of your music listening device of choice. Hooray!

Ethier also knows how to slow it down, and on album closer "Blacker Gold," he exposes a softer side that's just as catchy. He even stakes out a middle ground with "Don't Let This Mean Old World Swallow You," making *Secondathallum* a well-rounded listen.

Ethier takes his experience from the decade he's been making music and kneads it into something wonderful. Plus, where else will you find a song called "Now I Wanna Be Your Dad?"

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Draco and Harry's kiss looks like it could lead to a home run for the both of them. What are the chances that they'll end up in bed together within moments of this PDA? No really, I'm curious; what are the chances that a simple kiss results in couples doing the deed? E-mail [entertainment@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:entertainment@gateway.ualberta.ca) and let me know.

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# Visible to the critical eye

## Arthur and The Invisibles

Directed by Luc Besson  
Starring Freddie Highmore, Mia Farrow, and the voice talents of Madonna, David Bowie, Snoop Dogg, Jason Bateman, Rob Corrdry, Robert De Niro, Emilio Estevez, Jimmy Fallon, Harvey Keitel and Chazz Palminteri  
*Opens Friday, 12 January Empire Theatres*

MARIA KOTOVYCH  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

The hidden adventures that occur in backyards come to life once again in *Arthur and The Invisibles*. Instead of having kids running around and encountering huge ants and beetles like in *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids*, this movie is set in a magical fairy world that humans can't see.

This world—created using a combination of live-action and CGI technology—is inhabited by little creatures called the Minimoy, and their little kingdom is threatened by the evil wizard Maltazard the Cursed.

Arthur (Freddie Highmore) is a ten-year-old human boy living with his grandmother (Mia Farrow). Arthur's grandfather, an explorer, disappeared four years ago, but not before regaling

Arthur with tales of travel, adventure and the great treasure found in the magical world of the Minimoy. When Arthur's grandmother receives notice that her home will be repossessed in three days, Arthur sets out to find this treasure, and with the help of some of his grandfather's friends, enters the secret world of the Minimoy, becoming one himself. They soon enlist Arthur's help in fighting Maltazard. Arthur leaves on his journey, along with the beautiful Princess Selenia (voiced by Madonna) and her little brother, Betameche (voiced by Fallon).

The animation of the film is beautiful, notably its use of vivid colours and subtle lighting effects. The animation carefully captures the smallest of details, such as delicate blonde highlights in Princess Selenia's red hair.

The film's creators deserve applause for deviating from the stereotype of a helpless blonde princess found in many fairy tales. Not wanting to be completely devoid of typecasts, this film features ethnic diversity through the Minimoy, including an Italian-American and several African-Americans. All of these characterizations culminate in a really bizarre nightclub scene featuring an incredibly creepy club owner (voiced

by, and eerily resembling, Snoop Dogg). Arthur is even involved in a fight scene/dance number during the song "Stayin' Alive."

The adult human characters in the film are laughable, but Farrow's talents are wasted in a role that has her doing nothing but running around and looking worried. Similarly, Arthur's annoying parents are self-absorbed, clueless and dazed idiots who have no interest in parenting and who could not have possibly created a child as smart as Arthur. Arthur's dog is a more interesting and appealing character than those three. A poor set of adult human characters is supported with an equally poor script.

Fortunately, the characters become slightly more interesting (with the exception of the ethnically-stereotyped characters) once Arthur enters the world of the Minimoy. The script improves marginally at this point in the movie as well, but there are very few witty, punchy or thought-provoking moments. The character of Betameche, who was probably supposed to be the comic relief, falls flat.

However, given the option of watching either *Arthur and The Invisibles* or some of the sequels to *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids*, I'd quickly choose *Arthur*.

# Little Mosque liked by Allah

Although it's no *All in the Family*, *Little Mosque* is sure to boost CBC's ratings

## Little Mosque on The Prairie

Written Zarqa Nawaz  
Directed by Michael Kennedy  
Starring Sheila McCarthy, Carlo Rota, Zaib Shaikh, Sitara Hewitt, Debra McGrath, Manoj Sood, Arlene Duncan, Derek McGrath, Neil Crone  
Now airing on CBC

MATT FREHNER  
Editor-in-Chief

With a publicity launch that included camels and hundreds of pounds of free shawarma, expectations were high for Zarqa Nawaz's new CBC sitcom, *Little Mosque on the Prairie*. The title should give some inkling of the show's tone: a wholesome, thoroughly Canadian comedy about some Muslims in wheat-country.

Our national broadcaster's answer to CTV hit *Corner Gas*, the little mosque in the fictional town of Mercy made big waves with pundits over the last week, as the *New York Times*, BBC and even CNN picked up the story—many without having seen the show. "A comedy about Muslims?" they quipped, "How juicy! How postmodern!"

But those looking for controversy will be sorely disappointed. The Muslim angle is more a fresh way of approaching the quirks of multicultural Canadiana than a biting commentary on North America's closet (or not-so-closet, if you listen to the likes of CNN's Glenn Beck) Islamophobia.

Fortunately for the rest of us, the show is actually pretty funny.

Zaib Shaikh stars as lawyer-turned-imam Amaar Rashid, who answers an ad in a Toronto newspaper and ends up leading a small-town rural mosque—fronted by a construction company renting space in the ailing local church. Rashid is positioned against Mercy's more traditional Muslims and their old imam, who preaches about the hidden agenda of products like licorice, rye bread and wine gums.

**Even though the show seems staunchly apolitical, the scenes involving media personalities are scathing in their veracity.**

Heaped in small-town-versus-big-town stereotypes, LMOTP sees the new imam frustrated over the naïve local media and his inability to order a skim-milk cappuccino, playing the annoyed, yuppie Torontonian to a T. However, Shaikh's best scene comes before he arrives in Mercy. While detained at Pearson airport as a suspected terrorist, he remarks, "What are you going to do, deport me to Syria?" To which the cop retorts that

terrorists don't get to choose to which country they get deported.

The few bits of deadpan, urgently polite Canadian humour save an otherwise-lukewarm script and make the show worth watching. *Little Mosque* riffs on Muslim stereotypes without being smarmy or cheerleading the Muslim cause.

While it screams CBC political correctness at times—none of the jokes are deliciously split-your-ribs offensive—the safe humour isn't irredeemable. And besides, the characters wouldn't be very Canadian if they weren't self-consciously PC and constantly worried about offending each other.

And even though the show seems staunchly apolitical, the scenes involving media personalities are scathing in their veracity. The segment where the local redneck radio host interviews Rashid, and refers to him as "Johnny Jihad," is eerily reminiscent of Beck's CNN interview with the first-ever Muslim congressman, where Beck asks, "Sir, prove to me that you're not working with our enemies."

Still, it's doubtful that, as director Michael Kennedy hopes, *Little Mosque* will do for Muslim-Christian relations what *All in the Family* did for racial bigotry in the '60s and '70s. But it's a noble goal nonetheless, and in concert with the show's palpably Canadian comedy, *Little Mosque* might just be the sly hit CBC desperately needs.



# Vegas like a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow

## Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six Vegas

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MATTHEW BARRETT  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

When the original *Rainbow Six* hit store shelves in 1998, it was the first game to offer up a realistic, hardcore tactical-shooting experience. As the years ground on, however, the franchise migrated to the various consoles and what was once considered realistic, tactical shooting simply became shooting. As a result, there will be a tendency for PC gamers to ignore *Rainbow Six Vegas*, the latest in the *Rainbow Six* franchise—after all, it's a straight Xbox 360 port coming on the heels of a slew of others bearing the Tom Clancy stamp. But Ubisoft has done wonders to reinvigorate the franchise, and it would be a shame to miss out on *Rainbow Six's* overdue return to the PC.

In the campaign, you play as Logan Keller, the newly appointed leader of one of Rainbow's elite three-man counter-terrorism units, who's invariably called into Las Vegas to defend the glitzy casinos and high-rises. The plot is replete with various ne'er-do-wells, a feisty and unwholesome villainess, secret labs and other tired plot devices borrowed from too many other Tom Clancy games,

including a plot-twist more predictable than the onset of menopause. But despite a story thinner than the DVD the game comes on, what *Vegas* lacks in political intrigue and riveting dialogue it more than makes up for with some of the best tactical shooting to grace the PC in 2006.

And shooting there is. Plenty of it, which is one of the major differences between *Vegas* and its slower-paced predecessors. But thankfully, the tactical gameplay has been preserved—even evolved—from the original.

While it may not look or play like it's illustrious predecessor, *Vegas* is still a deserving holder of the *Rainbow Six* stamp and one of the best tactical shooters to grace the PC in awhile.

In *Rainbow Six Vegas*, cover is your best friend, whether it's a car, wall, or curiously well-aligned cluster of barrels. And thanks to the intuitive controls, it's relatively easy to use as well. Simply approach your cover of choice and hold down the right mouse button, and you'll "hug" the cover. You then have the ability to poke your body out to the sides or over the top to take quick

shots at the enemy. Or, if things are getting particularly dicey, you can poke your rifle around the corner and blind-fire without exposing all your tender bits to the bad guys.

Logan's mission in *Vegas* isn't a solo one, mind you. Filling out the three-man unit are Michael and Jung, two Pendleton trainees assigned to your team upon arriving in Vegas. Effectively joined at the hip, Michael and Jung perform every action together, whether it's following you, taking cover or rappelling down the side of a building. And again, thanks to the intuitive controls, commanding your team is easy. Simply point to some cover, tap space and they'll take cover. Do the same with a door and they'll "stack up" on either side and await your cue to breach and enter. Actually, one of the high points of the game is the ease with which you can setup and execute some highly intricate team-based maneuvers.

*Rainbow Six Vegas* has no equal on store shelves in terms of visuals. The graphics—from the casinos to your troopers to the Axe ads and Dodge Rams—are mind-blowing, and often border on the photo-realistic. The downside, of course, is that unless you have a top of the line rig or are willing to upgrade, expect your frame rates to be low.

While it may not look or play like its illustrious predecessor, *Vegas* is still a deserving holder of the *Rainbow Six* stamp and one of the best tactical shooters to grace the PC in awhile.



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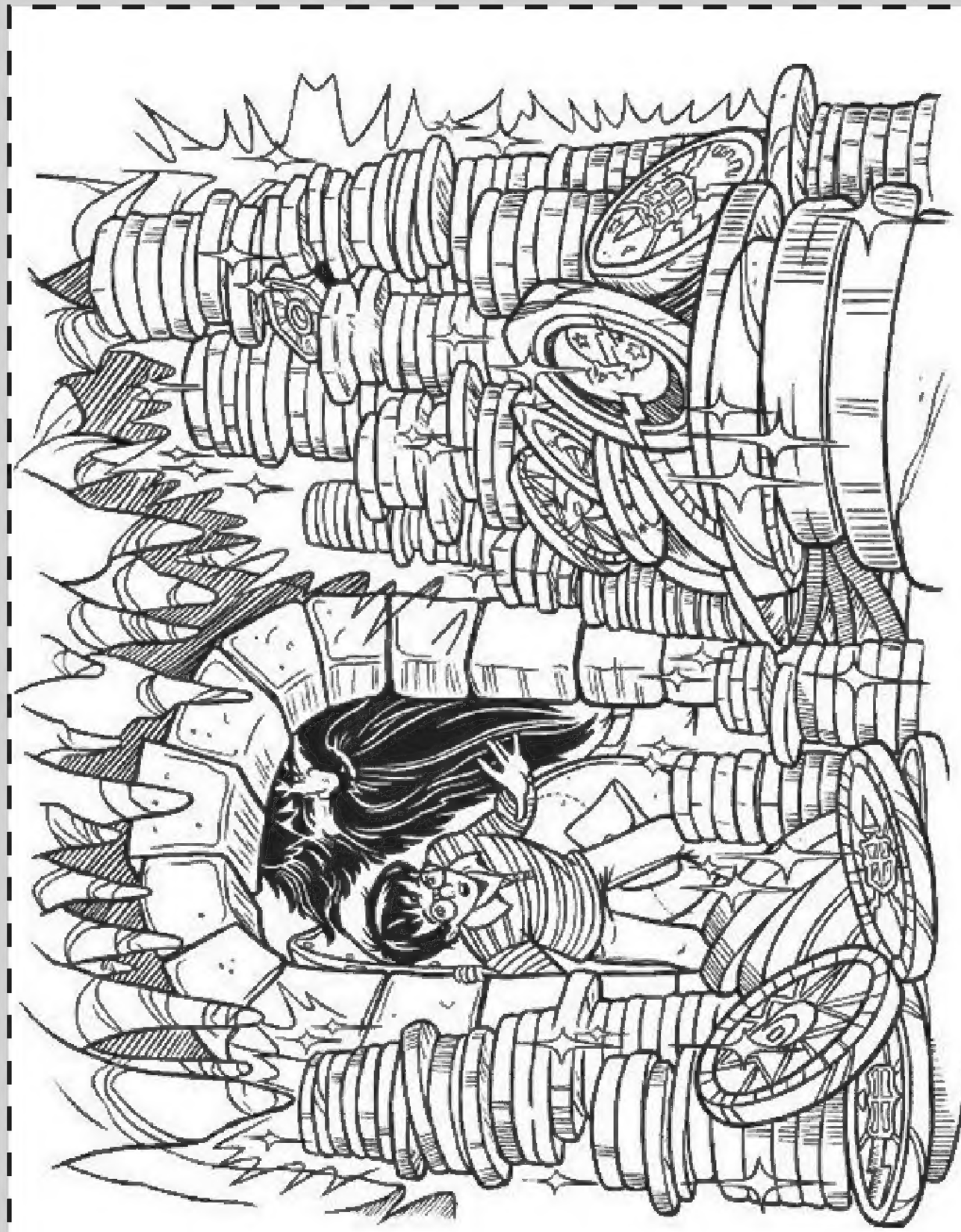
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FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

**GETTING SPACE IN THE PAINT** Youngsters like Marisa Heylett (22) will be forced into a larger role for the Pandas with injuries to some key post players.

# Panda posts becoming endangered species

Alberta hosts Manitoba, Winnipeg with injuries to Kiernan, Knowles, Ariss

PAUL OWEN  
Sports Editor

Already an undersized team in the Canada West conference, the fifth-ranked Pandas basketball squad will be a little weaker inside this weekend when they take on the Winnipeg Wesmen (8-4) and Manitoba Bisons (6-6).

Injuries to forwards Natalie Kiernan, Trish Ariss and Meghan Knowles—a trio that has accounted for 18 points and 12.1 rebounds per game—have depleted a front line that, despite its lack of stature, has helped Alberta (10-2) average 3.3 more rebounds per game than their opponents. Ariss is slated to play this weekend, but Kiernan is questionable and Knowles is definitely out. The banged-up posts will put added onus on the healthy ones, particularly third-year Kristin Jarock, to deal with the Wesmen's Stephanie Timmersman and Bisons' Sarah Holder, who rank eleventh and eighth in conference scoring respectively.

"The pressure's on Kristin Jarock to play really well; she has to carry the load for us for sure," Pandas head coach Scott Edwards said. "We stepped up her minutes this past weekend and she handled that very well, and hopefully she's able to do that again. [We'll handle Timmersman] by committee again defensively, and we'll scheme and trap and press and try to limit their touches inside."

Jarock, however, doesn't feel any added stress despite her injured team-

mates. Being undersized in the post is a problem the Pandas face every weekend, according to her, and this weekend will just be more of the same.

"Most teams have bigger posts than us, but we handled Sarah Crooks, and we just work hard and it pays off. [As a smaller team] our defensive rotation is key, and we pride ourselves on our transition game," she said.

In addition to Timmersman, eighth-ranked Winnipeg features the country's leading scorer—shooting guard Uzo Asagwara, who's averaging 28.1 points per game—and an up-tempo attack that matches well with the Pandas' own game.

"Winnipeg and Manitoba are both really tough, physical, athletic teams who both like to run and trap and press all over the floor," Edwards noted. "For Winnipeg, it all starts and ends with Uzo. [She's] outstanding and we have to figure out how to slow her down. We'll try a lot of different kids—we've got a bunch of kids who

defend really well but are totally different body types, which could frustrate her: Carly MacLennan, who's long, Kara Stevens, who's a physically tough kid, and Alysia Rissling, who's just a freaky athlete."

Manitoba, on the other hand, will bring a tough, attacking defence to the Main Gym that will force point guard Ashley Wigg and the rest of the Pandas guards to be on top of their game. Manitoba is second only to Alberta in the conference in turnover difference, forcing 6.33 more turnovers per game than they give up.

"[The Bisons] put a lot of pressure on decision-making guards," Edwards said. "Manitoba does a better job after the trap in their half court man-to-man, so we're going to have to be prepared to attack aggressively and make them pay for coming to trap us."

The Wesmen stop in for a visit Friday at 6pm in the Main Gym, and Alberta hosts the Bisons at the same time on Saturday.

## STILL HEALTHY

• **Kristin Jarock:** The third-year from Edmonton is leading the Pandas in scoring (11.9) and rebounding (6.1), and is second in the conference in offensive rebounds. A second-team conference all-star last season, Jarock has continued to put up steady numbers and be one of the top options in the offence.

• **Michelle Anderson:** The third-year in her first at the U of A after spending two at Mt Royal has put up 4.1 points in her 9.1 minutes per game but only 0.8 boards per game.

• **Alysia Rissling:** First-year has been counted on for defence more than offence in her rookie season.

# Slowing stars key for Golden Bear hoopsters versus Wesmen, Bisons

PAUL OWEN  
Sports Editor

Last season, led by post Dan Shynkaryk, the Winnipeg Wesmen upset the Golden Bears basketball squad on a Saturday night in the Main Gym as part of a weekend split. This season, the Bears (8-4) will have two other stars to worry about as they prepare to host the Wesmen (5-7) and the Manitoba Bisons (4-8) this weekend.

"Our defence wasn't as capable last year as it is this year," fifth-year post Scott Gordon explained. "We're playing a lot of team defence; we're forcing baseline; we've got a lot of help defence this year, so it's more of a team aspect. All the guys are going to be looking at their shooters and that'll play a large role in stopping their main guys."

Stopping the visiting stars could prove a tough task as the Wesmen boast the nation's second-leading scorer, Erfan Nasajpour (23.3 points per game), and the Bisons sport the Isaac Ansah (21.3 points per game), who sits in seventh.

"We've got to control Erfan to an extent—we're not going to be able stop him completely because he's that kind of player; he's going to get his

points. They've got some good shooters: Opalko is a really good three-point shooter, and Shynkaryk might be their best player," Bears head coach Don Horwood said.

**"We've got to control Erfan to an extent—we're not going to be able stop him completely because he's that kind of player; he's going to get his points."**

DON HORWOOD,  
BEARS HEAD COACH

"We need to control Isaac Ansah similar to what we have to do with Nasajpour, but I don't think [Manitoba has] a lot of outside shooters; they're fairly strong in the post," he added.

As well, Horwood is hoping that a lack of familiarity will work to Alberta's advantage. He noted that after playing Calgary five times, the Dinos were

aware of what the Bears were doing offensively and able to disrupt key players such as Alex Steele, contributing to Alberta's loss last Saturday.

"Getting Alex loose, getting open floor and open shots for Alex is a big part of our game. I'm hoping that Winnipeg and Manitoba won't be as aware of what he does and maybe he can exploit that a little bit," he said.

Another key for the Bears will be keeping up with the consistency that they have found this season. After splitting five of their ten weekends last season, Alberta has done so only twice thus far this year—both on the road.

"We're going to have to come to play both nights—that's been a big thing for us the past few years," Gordon said. "The main thing for us is to be focused and ready to compete both nights and if we do that, I have no doubt we'll be able to take two."

"We need to play with a lot of energy, work hard on the defensive end and be more patient on offence, execute and do the things that are successful for us," Horwood added.

The Bears take on the Wesmen at 8pm Friday and the Bisons 8pm on Saturday, both in the Main Gym.



FILE PHOTO: ANDREW RURAK

**LITTLE KNOWN** Calgary may have been familiar with Alex Steele (white), but the Bears hope the two teams from Winnipeg aren't this weekend in the Gym.



# Wrestling teams heading in opposite directions

PAUL OWEN  
Sports Editor

After years that saw the Pandas wrestling team carry the load while the Bears laboured in the middle of the pack, last season saw a reversal of fortunes as the men jumped up to fifth place, and the women fell into obscurity. Now, halfway through a season that has seen both the men and women stand fast in their positions, the wrestlers host the University of Alberta Varsity Open and Golden Bear Invitational this weekend in the Butterdome.

While the women's team finished in the top three nationally in the first four seasons of its existence, the team has fallen on hard times since, and, while this season appears brighter than last, which saw the team fail to qualify for CIS Nationals, the women are still at the back of the wrestling pack, according to wrestling head coach Vang Ioannides.

"On the women's side, the rest of the teams in Canada West are probably four of the five top teams in the CIS, so it'd be unrealistic to think we'd be able to climb that ladder this year. We're so much better than we were last year—not that it'd be hard; we were very weak last year," he said.

The decline of the Alberta women's program can be linked to a decline in the local athletes, according to Ioannides, who noted that not just the amount, but the quality of athletes has declined in the capital region.

"We had a very strong program for our first six years in CIS competition, and unfortunately that led many athletes to go elsewhere because they knew they couldn't start here,"



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

THE NOT-FAKE KIND U of A wrestlers are hosting some of the top athletes in western Canada this weekend.

he said. "Aside from that, our high school program in and around the Edmonton area has really taken a hit. British Columbia and Saskatchewan are developing more, better wrestlers than Alberta is now."

On the men's side, last year's fifth-place finish was a huge step forward for the Golden Bears, who had been hovering around tenth for the four previous seasons. The Bears return two CIS bronze medalists—Anthony Kulak and Jarrett Wall—who both have aspirations of upgrading this year's medal colour to gold.

"My goal is to have the best season I've had yet in university and win nationals. I've placed third the last three years and I want to break the streak," Wall said. "My strengths are in my footwork and my technique.

My fitness is really strong right now, and I just need to finish out the next couple months competing strong and putting my matches together before nationals."

The return of two medalists and improvement of some other veterans has led to high hopes from Ioannides for his individual wrestlers.

"Jarret Wall and Anthony Kulak have both set their goal at winning not just the Canada West Championship, but also CIS. It'll be tougher for Jarret than it will be for Anthony because his weight class is a little bit more competitive at this point; whereas, Anthony, as long as he doesn't beat himself, he'll win," he said. "I have high hopes for both Bram Ratay and Mike Hulburt; I think both of those guys have a chance at qualifying for

CIS and placing in the top sixth, if not higher."

Despite edging into the top five nationally, the Bears were still unable to creep higher than third in Canada West last year, a position they haven't topped since the 1988/89 season. While the team is still probably fourth in the conference, according to Ioannides, it also has a dark-horse shot at bringing home a banner.

"I think the Bears have the capability on any given day to compete with any team in Canada West," he said. "And, with that, I think our goal is ultimately to win a Canada West championship."

The Varsity Open goes Friday night at 5pm in the Butterdome and the Invitational starts Saturday at 11am in the same venue.

## SPORTS SHORTS

Written by Paul Owen

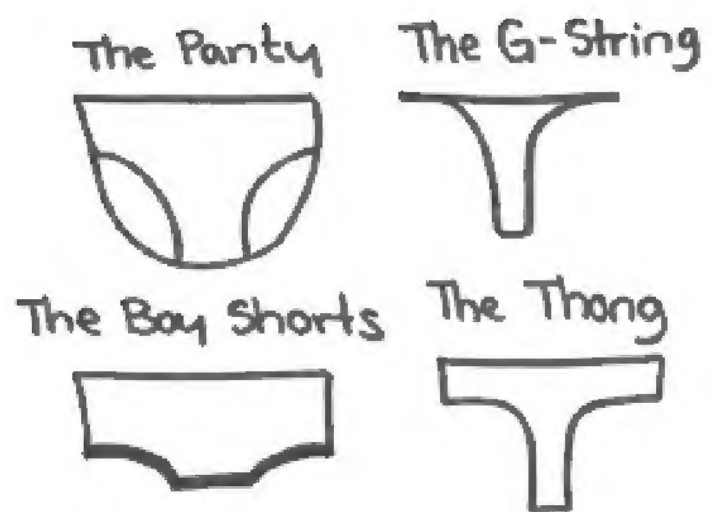
### Bears Hockey

The Golden Bears will be heading to the City that Bachman Built to take on the Manitoba Bisons in a pair of games this weekend. Bears forward Ben Kilgour leads Canada West in goals with 15 and sits second in points with 31. Dylan Stanley's 26 points are good enough for fourth in the conference, while second-year goaltender Aaron Sorochan leads all keepers in wins, save percentage, goals-against-average, minutes, saves and awesomeness.

### Shorts

I've always acted under the assumption that boys wear underwear and girls wear panties, with each term being a catch-all phrase designed to describe anything a member of the respective sex wears atop their genitals. Apparently, however, I'm wrong.

According to Natalie Climenhaga, you have three basic types of feminine underwear: the panty, the thong and the boy short. The panty covers part of the bum, the thong—and its cousin the G-string—don't cover the ass at all, while boy shorts cover the ass and hips.



NATALIE CLIMENHAGA



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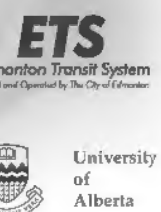
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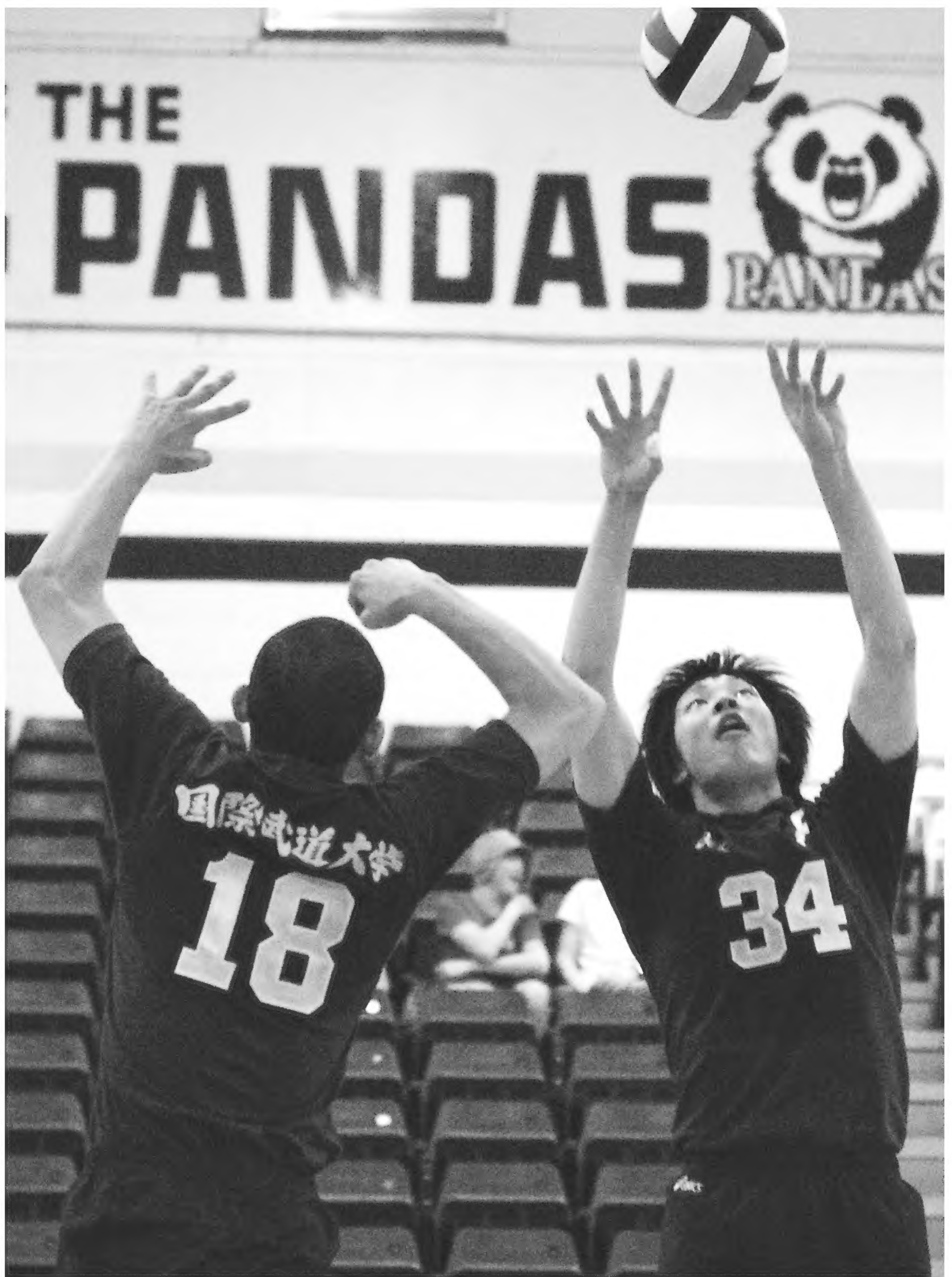
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KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

LAND OF THE RISING BALL Budo seemed to enjoy their time in Canada. They were really happy in RATT on Wednesday.

## Japanese volleyball teams bring international flavour to U of A

International Budo challenges Pandas, Golden Bears in Tuesday evening sets

ANDREW RENFREE  
Sports Staff

What's the main difference between volleyball in Canada and Japan?

"About eight inches in height," Bears volleyball head coach Terry Danyluk joked.

The Main Gym got a little international flavour Tuesday evening as the Pandas and Bears volleyball squads took on teams from Japan in exhibition matches. The Asian competition hails from the International Budo University in Chiba, Japan, located 90 minutes north of Tokyo. The Japanese contenders played against the University of Saskatchewan earlier in the week before travelling to the U of A to finish their Canadian trip.

"The guys [were] really looking forward to this competition because, for some of them, they've never played a Japanese team," Danyluk said. "It's a neat experience for the athletes: everything's in a different language, it's a different speed and it's one of the things I feel gives you experience and makes you a better player."

"There's a North American style of playing a particular sport and it's great for our athletes to experience the international style," U of A Athletics Director Dale Schulha added. "The interaction with the other student athletes is

very important and I know the coaches appreciate having different systems to play against."

The Bears won their match 3-0 against the men's squad that plays in division one and would be comparable to most CIS teams.

**"They frustrate you and it pushes those buttons, and you could see at times tonight we were getting frustrated because what we did wasn't working; it wasn't good enough."**

**LAURIE EISLER  
ON INTERNATIONAL BUDO**

The Budo women's team plays in a division two league in Japan, but fought hard against the Pandas Tuesday with strong technical play. The Pandas won 3-1 in four hard-fought sets.

"They made us play really hard tonight," Pandas head coach Laurie Eisler said. "They have unbelievable tactics and ball control, and they force you to beat them because they're not going to make mistakes and they keep

the ball alive."

Eisler added that the strength of the Japanese team was irritating at times.

"They frustrate you and it pushes those buttons, and you could see at times tonight we were getting frustrated because what we did wasn't working; it wasn't good enough," she explained. "You couldn't get a more relentless and meticulous kind of opponent."

While no other international teams are scheduled to hit the volleyball court at the Main Gym before the end of the year, U of A Athletics Director Dale Schulha mentioned that the U of A is attempting to increase the amount of international opposition they face.

"In terms of international competition we're always looking for that opportunity for all of our athletes; it's really an excellent situation for our kids," Schulha said, noting that they are also attempting to send teams overseas to compete.

Schulha continued that U of A is a leader amongst Canadian universities in terms of hosting teams from other countries and hoped it would enhance the 2011 Summer Universiade bid that U of A currently has tendered. Alberta previously hosted the Universiade in 1983, for which the Universiade Pavilion was built.





FILE PHOTO: ASHLEY SCARLETT

**FLY LIKE AN EAGLE ERR... BUTTERFLY** The swim team has already qualified twelve for nationals and is looking for more.

# Deeper team in the water for swimmers under Humby

PAUL OWEN  
Still the Sports Editor

It's been only seven months since Bill Humby was hired as the University of Alberta's new swim coach, but he's already had a significant positive impact on the Bears and Pandas.

Heading into this weekend's Green and Gold Invitational, the Golden Bear swimmers have qualified five men for the CIS finals, while the Pandas have put seven through to Halifax, both numbers up one from last season with three meets to go. While Humby doesn't believe that this weekend will see anyone else qualify for nationals, he does feel that his national teams are still incomplete.

"I think we could have at least three more women and five more men. I'd be pretty happy with ten and ten," he said. "I tried to pack a lot of racing into a short period of time [this weekend] because that's what Canada

West is: when you get there, swim your races—heats and finals—and your relays, it's action-packed."

Alberta will host club teams from around the Edmonton area and Saskatoon, and while the meet won't provide CIS-level competition, it will serve a dual purpose for the Bears and Pandas.

"I wasn't sure if I was going to run it, but we've got Canada West the following weekend, and I figured running the meet would be a good idea because I wanted to get them back—they haven't raced since the end of November—to remember what racing is, so they're sharp for Canada West," Humby explained.

"It's mostly the clubs that are participating, and primarily, they are all kids who are 15–18 year old, so I'm going to recruit them. A big part is getting them into our pool, meeting the parents and talking to them about our program."

As the swimmers gear up for Canada West finals, where they qualified four swimmers for nationals last year and grabbed third- and fifth-place finishes for the men and women respectively, they do so already ahead of where they were last season, thanks in large part to some talented rookies.

"We have a few first-year students who've come in and done pretty well—Katerina Symes made it, Lisa Kenke made it, Doug Rawlick made it—there's a number who have come in and are making an impact right away," he noted. "The standard at the beginning of the year was to pick a team of kids that are within three per cent of qualifying for CIS, and I figure that if you work hard and improve, three percent is a decent amount to improve throughout the year."

The meet starts at 5pm Saturday and continues at 7am on Sunday in the Winslow & Christian Hamilton Memorial Pool.

# WJHC proves kids can entertain, even without me



NICK FROST

With the end of the Christmas break comes the end of the World Junior Hockey Championships, and for the third year in row, Canada triumphantly walked away with the gold medal. Some games were nail-biters—like the semifinal match against the United States—and some moments sent us leaping out of our seats—like Carey Price's save on Anton Krysanov's breakaway in the final to keep the score at 4–2—but ultimately, the championships once again proved that youngsters can, oftentimes, make things just as exciting and intense as professionals. To quote Jonathan Toews, as he said to TSN's James Cybulski, they did "a fucking great job."

This year's tournament, however, was bittersweet for me. It brought about a harsh realization that I hadn't given any previous thought to: this tournament would've been my last year of eligibility to play for Canada at the World Under-20 Championships, and I fucking missed it.

I remember being a wide-eyed 11-year-old back in '97, sitting and gazing admirably at the television as Boyd Devereaux scored the winning goal to prevent the dastardly Americans from winning the gold. I remember thinking, "That could be me—nay, that *will* be me someday!" Of course, it doesn't help when you don't actually play hockey—or know how to skate—nevertheless, I still had eight years in which to perfect my backward crossovers. I was going to be the star offensive-defenceman, pack my bags and prepare myself to win one for the nation.

But, alas, my time has come and passed, leaving me to wallow alone on my couch and watch on as a different group of 17–19-year-olds add gold to the Red and White. No phone calls of apology from Bob Nicholson for not inviting me to selection camp, no text messages from Craig Hartsburg saying that they could really use me out there; instead just me watching guys like Jonathan Toews as he works both ends of ice—often capping off a rush with a Joe Sakic-esque goal—Marc Staal and Ryan Parent as they physically manhandle any and every little piece of Eurotrash that even thinks about crossing their paths, and Carey Price as he shuts down oppositions with his quick reflexes and strong butterfly positioning.

While I may not have reached my dream of raising that World Junior trophy above my head, at least I can go on knowing that people in this country give a damn about hockey at the junior and collegiate level, if only for a few days in December and January. And they should. Many of these kids are insanely talented for their age, and are continuously raising the bar in terms of the range of their skill sets. I mean, you never saw Newsy Lalonde pick up the puck on the blade of his stick, and twirl with the damn thing. These guys aren't playing for dollars, they're playing for their pride and their futures—they have nothing to lose, so they give it their all.

Fact is, watching junior hockey can be just as enthralling as watching professional hockey. Given, a Memorial Cup will never have the same kind of hype around it that a Stanley Cup will; still, I would rather watch a hard-fought battle between two small Canadian towns than watch two southern US cities battle over a piece of hardware that means nothing to them. I'll choose the juniors any day of the week and twice on Sunday, even if they are lacking a 5'9" offensive-defenceman with "Frost" on the back of his jersey.



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# THE GATEWAY

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## Coke contract raises ethical concerns for SU



ASHLEY SCARLETT

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
Senior News Editor

With the Students' Union getting ready to vote on a plebiscite question regarding the renewal of the single source beverage agreement with the Coca-Cola Company, debate is far from flat.

The University of Alberta originally signed an exclusivity agreement with Coke on 1 June, 1998 that was set to expire 31 May, 2008. However, under the terms of the new ten-year agreement, which would be retroactively implemented 1 June 2005, the beverage giant would continue its monopoly on campus until 31 May, 2015.

"From a financial perspective it's really black and white—this is what we should do," SU Vice-President (Operations & Finance) Chris Cunningham said.

Cunningham explaining that a provision in the original contract stated that if the U of A didn't meet its vending targets during the first ten years, the agreement would be extended for two subsequent years without any funding benefits for students.

PLEASE SEE COKE ♦ PAGE 6

ALSO READ PRUSAKOWSKI ON PAGE 9

**A FOUNTAIN OF OPINIONS** The pending decision whether or not to continue an exclusivity contract with the Coca-Cola Company has drawn polarized debate.

## Arts grads seek better career advice

### Faculty-specific career advisor will work at finding students skill-related jobs

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
Senior News Editor

When Faculty of Arts undergraduate student Kartik Trivedi went to Career and Placement Services (CAPS) looking for a job, he had little doubt his credentials would qualify him for at least some form of employment. He was surprised, however, when he was offered an entry-level position working at Tim Horton's.

Trivedi, who already has a degree in engineering and is currently fulfilling the prerequisites for the Bachelor of Commerce after-degree program, explained he went to CAPS after he heard students vocalizing their concerns that the agency's employment opportunities are too generalized.

"There were a lot of people talking about CAPS, and I [wanted to] go and find out myself," explained Trivedi, who is the Associate Vice-President (Advocacy) for the Arts Student Association.

"CAPS doesn't necessarily utilize the skills that Arts students have when they go looking for employment," ASA President Tim Schneider said, saying this is one of the reasons the decision has been made to create an employment officer specific Faculty of Arts.

"One of the greatest difficulties a lot

of Arts students have is just finding employment after they finish their degree," Schneider said, adding that a lot of the Arts students he'd spoken with had said CAPS didn't necessarily take their undergraduate training into consideration when lining them up for a job.

"At least in my experiences, I've never seen them say, 'This student has, say, an Anthropology degree, let's take that into consideration when finding them employment,'" Schneider said.

Arts Dean Dr Daniel Woolf explained the new full-time position will offer more centrally accessible career-advising services to Arts students, and work against impressions about the usefulness of an Arts degree or the desirability of hiring an Arts graduate.

"I think the students have felt for a long time that other faculties seem to be doing a little bit more by way of providing that kind of advice to students," Woolf said. "We're pursuing this option to basically get rid of the myth that you can't get a job as an Arts student."

Woolf said he hoped to be able to advertise the position before the end of the semester once Acting Associate Dean of Student Programs Dr Raleigh Whiting and the ASA have finished creating a memorandum of understanding outlining the specifics of the

Arts Career Officer's portfolio.

"We're just getting started on getting a job description; we're pulling in information on similar positions from across campus," Whiting said.

He explained that they're looking at hiring somebody who would begin to develop external relationships at all three government levels, in the corporate sphere and in the public sector, as well as coordinating with other units or programs that already have active outside placement services.

"I think it's very exciting and I'm really hoping that it does a lot for Arts students," Schneider said.

But despite ASA's concerns over what CAPS is able to offer students, CAPS Promotions Coordinator Laura Manuel noted they do offer faculty-specific workshops and seminars to assist Arts students.

Manuel explained that CAPS has been collaborating with the Faculty of Arts to decide how the career advisors' role is going to pan out, and how the individual will work with CAPS' existing program.

"[It's] not replacing anything at CAPS. In fact, it's only going to enhance our services," Manuel said. "The bottom line for us is that our goal is to get career services to students."

## Education in Canada on rocky road, report argues

SCOTT LILWALL  
Deputy News Editor

Canada's first national review of postsecondary education paints a bleak picture of the system's future, and warns of grave economic consequences if concerns aren't addressed quickly.

A *Positive Record—An Uncertain Future*, released on 5 December by the Canadian Council on Learning, came as a result of various surveys by federal departments, as well as information gathered from Statistics Canada and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. Paul Cappon, President of CCL, explained that Canada is long overdue for an examination of higher education nationwide.

"Every other country has a regular review of how it's doing in postsecondary education. They know that the success of their communities and their populations and of their individuals depends on the success of this sector," Cappon said. "So, it's alarming that other countries can act on what they find [in their reviews], while we're swimming in the dark. We have been for so long in this country."

Cappon explained that the most shocking discovery in the report was

the fact that, despite high college and university admission rates, 42 per cent of adult Canadians aren't adequately literate to fully participate in a knowledge-based economy—which could have dire consequences for the Canada in the future.

"You can't be very productive if your literacy level is lower than is considered to be basic for a knowledge society," he said.

Increasing student enrollment while the number of professors to teach them remains about the same was another concern raised in the report. Dave Cournoyer, Students' Union Vice-President (External) said that, while he complemented the hard work of U of A faculty, the deficit in the numbers of teaching staff impacts the quality and students' access to postsecondary learning.

"It's very concerning, considering that what we've seen at the University of Alberta is a massive increase in the number of students, but the amount of professors are falling back or remain the same," he said. "Students aren't getting the one-on-one time with the professors, or they're in larger class sizes, and I think that affects the quality of education."

PLEASE SEE CCL ♦ PAGE 2

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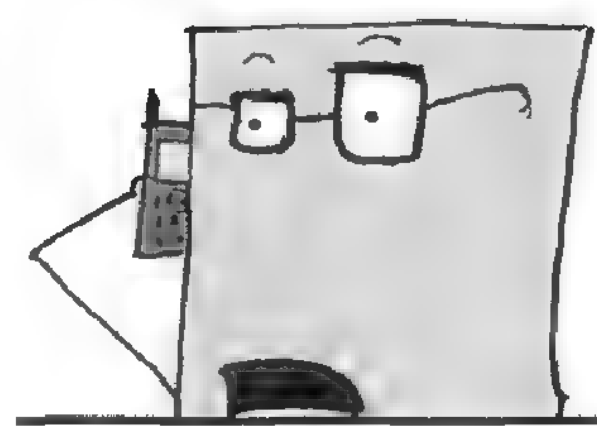
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## Hey! Frog face!

That's right; Mahogany Frog is talking to you. They want you to come to their show. And bring some power tools.

A&E, PAGE 12



## I hate that guy!

You know, the one who's always talking on his cellphone? Find out what Bernard has to say about it.

COMICS, PAGES 23



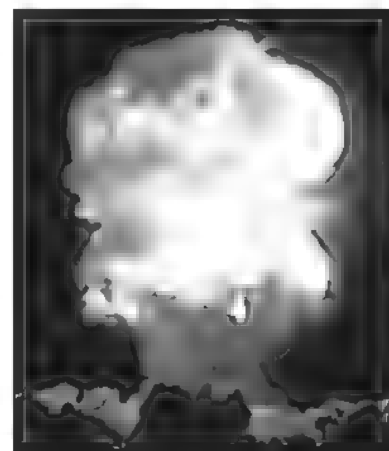


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# Igloo no longer fitting home for NHL's Penguins



GATEWAY SPORTS  
STAFF

Thanks to some bizarre circumstances and some obstruction-holding from Gary Bettman, billionaire BlackBerry mogul Jim Balsillie is no longer in line to buy the beleaguered franchise. Because the group that would have built the Penguins a new arena for free failed to receive a casino license, keeping the Pens in Pennsylvania is no longer a viable option and Mario Lemieux is actively looking for a new place to call home. With this last point in mind, the Gateway took it upon themselves to decide where the best potential locations for a new NHL team would be.

**Trevor Phillips**

It appears as though the writing is on the wall for these endangered animals of professional hockey, and it looks as though it's only a matter of time until the non-flyers from Steeltown are shipped off to a new habitat. Therefore, I would like to humbly suggest that the Pens be moved to the City of Sin, in order to finally bring a professional team—and a little respect—to the land of poker tables and \$10 steak buffets.

That's right, Las Vegas is where the family-friendly NHL should move the Penguins. Not because showgirls and Wayne Newton are going to make the NHL a little edgier—or the Feds could employ the skills of lead CSI Grissom the Great to solve Operation Slapshot—but because Vegas is no longer a haven for bachelors and poker bums; it's a legitimate family town. Vegas has an economy and market stronger than, dare I say, Winnipeg. Besides the fact that their four top players can't even legally drink, if this whole move happens to fall apart, Bettman can always say, "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas," and that might be the best thing for this fumbling franchise.

**Nick Frost**

The NHL seems to have been progressively going south for a number of years—demonstrated, of course, by the amount of teams currently situated in the southern United States. In an effort to appease all hockey markets, the NHL, in the last 20 years, has moved teams from Winnipeg and Minnesota, to hockey hotspots like Phoenix and Dallas—and the results have spoken for themselves. Just look at the amount of people that attend Phoenix Coyotes' games; not to mention, hockey has moved ahead of bass-fishing in American TV ratings. Take that, Michael Iaconelli.

But, NHL, look at this like a limbo contest: you know—and I know—you can go lower. That's why my suggestion is for the league to move the Pittsburgh Penguins to Tijuana, Mexico.

Think about how perfect this is: what better way to start up a new, fresh hockey market, than giving it a team with the kind of star power that the Penguins have. The señoritas will go loco over Sidney Crosby, and every chico in the village will want to be the next Evgeni Malkin.

Not to mention, this move would maintain the ease of being a southern-NHL team by lightening the amount of travel. Sure, a Stanley Cup finals between Tijuana and Toronto would be an absolute bitch for both teams; but, then again, I don't think the Leafs are planning on being in the Stanley Cup Final any time soon.

Finally, it will divert attention from other, more dangerous Mexican sports like bullfighting, tequila shot-for-shot and cockfighting—both kinds.

**Andrew Renfree**

I'm sick and tired of the NHL expanding or moving teams into US cities where no one gives a damn about hockey. When the beloved Jets crashed in Winnipeg where did they end up?

Phoenix: a place known for retirees and sweltering heat, not ice hockey. When the Whale got beached in Hartford they packed up and moved to Carolina: a region known for its rabid college basketball fans, not its hockey prowess. Now, as the Penguins drown in Steeltown, Mario Lemieux and crew look to move the team, and I implore them not to stick the Pens in some city devoid of hockey fans like Las Vegas or Kansas City.

Here's a thought: why not move the team to Stockholm, Sweden? Some players would complain about the travel, but about five per cent of NHL players hail from Sweden anyway. The NHL's elite Swedes include big names like Daniel Alfredsson, Peter Forsberg, Markus Naslund, Mats Sundin, Mattias Norstrom and Nicklas Lidstrom, all of whom captain their respective teams and would have pull in getting a team in Sweden. Furthermore, what's a little jet lag if it means a team will actually be appreciated by the fans in hockey-crazed Scandinavia? During the Swedish games at the recent World Junior Hockey Championship, the fans were singing, chanting, waving flags, and banging drums and cowbells throughout. And if a solid fan base isn't enough to convince the NHL, doesn't "Stockholm Penguins" just have a nice ring to it?

**Ross Prusakowski**

While it's a shame that the NHL is failing in one of its original twelve markets because of an antiquated building and not because of the quality of team on the ice, there's really only one place for the Pittsburgh Penguins to move: Antarctica. Sure, at first it might seem like a terrible location to place the team, given the travel and housing constraints Antarctica would place on every team, but once you look past those minor inconveniences, the natural opportunities quickly become apparent.


Placing the Penguins in Antarctica would finally ensure that the Ross Ice Shelf Research station—the 1385th American TV market—is finally being served, and home attendance figures comprised of 30 scientists and 200 000 actual penguins would push the team from dead last to tops in the league. Add in the fact that the team's penny-pinching ownership wouldn't need to fork out for a new arena since the team could just play on the ice shelf, and the location is a natural fit. Plus, it's just stupid that the Penguins would play north of the equator—if *March of the Penguins* taught us anything, it's that people love dumb, flightless animals in their natural habitats.

**Paul Owen**

So seriously, where should the Penguins move? Many of you probably think I'm going to say that they should be shipped off to Winnipeg and renamed the Jets, but Winterpeg fucked itself when it built a new arena specifically to entice the NHL back to the city and failed to make the rink big enough to be profitable in the NHL—the MTS Centre doesn't even sit 16 000, for fuck's sake.

Of the other areas interested in an NHL franchise, none of them are truly viable solutions. Neither Seattle nor Portland has the hockey fanbase to support a losing team, and Kansas City can't even support the teams they have now, like the Royals. Vegas, as much as they want a team in any sport, won't get one while they allow gambling on that sport—the stigma of Pete Rose is too strong.

In the end, it would seem best to move the Pens to a Canadian city, though doing so would require a new, 19 000–20 000 seat arena to be built there. Larger urban areas like Hamilton or the Kitchener area where Basillie wanted to move them would be plausible, but perhaps the best option would be putting the Pens in a smaller Canadian city whose residents have high household incomes and regularly sell out CHL games. So, despite claims to be the best fans in the WHL, Prince George, you don't fit this bill. Kelowna, however, does. As do Red Deer and even Halifax. Just keep them out of Antarctica. Prusakowski gets really smug when he's right.




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Qui a le droit...? Quand, où et pourquoi? Un Odyssée

RACHEL BARTHÉLEMY  
Opinion

Depuis bien des temps, les médias se font lire et écouter de plus en plus au sujet de discrimination de tout genre, venant de certains pays. Cette dis crimination pose la question essen tielle du droit de la personne. Qui a le droit d'action? Ne sommes nous pas tous humains, n'avons nous pas tous le même droit, le même pouvoir? Le concept de droit est devenu très probléma iqu de nos jours, plein de controverses, d'abstractions et de points noirs. On se fait harceler, nar guer pour nos croyances, nos convic tions. On se fait abuser pour notre fidélité et dévouement, on se fait cri tiquer pour ne pas être comme les autres, mais soi même. On se fait

dénigrer pour ne pas faire comme les autres ou être au « même niveau » que ces derniers. Dans la famille qui dirige ces temps ci? qui a le droit de décider et de prendre les mesures? Qui respecte qui? Il semble qu'il n'y a plus de respect. Controverses, abstractions, points noirs, pleins de barrières qui détruisent l'humanité. Nombreux sont les sujets qui se trouvent sur cette liste, et nombreuses sont les questions qui restent sans réponses. Depuis Plusieurs mois, on parle constamment du port du voile par les femmes musulmanes, spécia lement dans les milieux scolaires. Cet aspect spirituel a été un problème pour beaucoup, non pas pour celles qui le portaient. Peut on dire que ce type de comportement soit discriminatoire ou raciste? Connaissent ils la signification,

l'importance du voile pour ces dames, pour leurs croyances ou coutumes? Le plus souvent, la réponse à cette ques tion est non. La recherche et la réflex ion viennent après les dégâts liés à la discrimination, à la négation du droit d'autrui et la résurgence du droit. Depuis quelques semaines, la violence contre les prostituées se fait de plus en plus fréquente. Les jeunes à l'école, et plus particulièrement les adolescents, voir même les enfants, se révèlent être des menaces pour leurs camarades. A leurs jeunes âges, ces jeunes se démar quent déjà par leurs attitudes violentes. Que peut on dire dans ces cas ci, est ce que c'est parce qu'ils n'ont pas eu de droits, ou en ont ils eu trop? Qui dirige chez eux, eux ou les parents? On parle aussi de prédateurs sex uels, de ravages immoraux faites par

eux envers les jeunes, voir même les adultes. On pourrait se demander s'ils on été jadis comme ces jeunes là qu'ils mollestent. Quelles sont les causes de cette vio lente qui nous envahit? Qui est en droit? Qui doit décider? Comment peut on équilibrer les choses pour gérer cette situation, améliorer la vie, reconstituer les valeurs morales et intrinsèques? Retrouver des relations saines, sans violences et tricheries, sans discrimi nations? Comment peut on dire que nous sommes tous des humains jouis sant des mêmes droits alors que nous nous entretuons pour des choses péri ssables et futiles? On pourrait presque espérer de l'année 2007 qui s'annonce qu'elle nous rassemble afin que nous puissions changer ces cauchemars en rêves et réalités.

RICHMOND WANG Les programmes Odyssée, à temps plein, et Accent, à temps partiel, du Conseil des ministres de l'Éducation (Canada) [CMEC] pourraient s'avérer être la solution idéale si vous mour rez d'envie d'apprendre l'autre langue officielle et de parcourir le pays tout en acquérant une expérience profession nelle. Depuis les années 70, de jeunes Canadiennes et Canadiens prov enant de villes telles que Québec et Edmonton et de plus petites collectiv ités comme l'île d'Anticosti (300 habi tants seulement), sont choisis pour remplir les fonctions de moniteurs de langues en français ou en anglais dans des écoles locales. Bien que les moniteurs de langues ne remplacent pas les enseignants ou professeurs au plein sens du terme, ils animent des conversations en groupe et conçoivent des exercices pratiques, des activités ludiques et des chansons. Aucune formation officielle n'est requise, mais les candidats doivent être de langue maternelle française ou anglaise et avoir complété au moins une année d'études postsecondaires. Plus de 30 000 moniteurs ont fait d'Accent et d'Odyssée les programmes d'échange culturel et linguistique parmi les plus réussis au Canada au cours des 30 dernières années; venez vous joindre à eux! La date limite de mise en can didature pour les programmes 2007–2008 est le 15 février 2007.

L'art et le recyclage: pour une nouvelle révolution tranquille

SOPHIE GINOUX  
L'Organe, Concordia University

MONTREAL (CUP) -- Nous restons parfois totalement pantois devant cer taines œuvres d'art, car notre com préhension s'arrête à ce que nous y voyons automatiquement. Pourtant l'art visuel, comme la musique ou la littérature, s'adresse à tous les types de public et véhicule, au-delà de son apparence, une histoire, un message qu'il nous est loisible d'interpréter chacun à notre manière. C'est pour cela que notre société regorge d'artistes empruntant toutes les aven ues visuelles possibles. Certains d'entre eux ont par exem ple choisi les matières recyclables pour s'exprimer. Pourquoi? Parce qu'ils s'inspirent d'objets qui les entourent, qu'ils souhaitent donner une deuxième vie à des objets qu'ils affectionnent, ou tout simplement parce qu'ils refusent de jeter ce qui pourrait encore servir. Et il est éton nant de se voir présenter le résultat de

leurs recherches. Des fauteuils con fectionnés à partir de bouchons de liège, jusqu'aux sculptures assemblées avec des pièces de voiture, ces artistes nous surprennent constamment. « Chaque fois que je présente une expo sition avec des œuvres constituées de matières recyclées, je m'étonne d'y découvrir au mois un réel talent », nous confirme Olga Maksimova, qui organise chaque année l'exposition Recycl'art à l'église Saint-Viateur de Montréal. Il ne faut pas croire pour autant que les artistes qui se sont spécialisés dans cette forme d'expression y étaient destinés. Irène Kérisit, une styliste très novatrice, avoue d'ailleurs qu'elle n'aurait jamais pensé, à 20 ans, entre prendre cette carrière : « Je regardais comme toutes les jeunes filles les mag azines, mais j'évoluais à ce moment-là dans le domaine de la restauration. Alors c'est vraiment en reprenant, sur le tard, des études en design de mode que j'ai compris ce que je vou lais vraiment faire. Et travailler sur un

mannequin a été une véritable révéla tion pour moi. » Le petit budget dont disposait Irène pour créer, ainsi que son attrait pour la nature, ont très vite influencé ses créations, si bien qu'à présent elle réalise des robes avec des éléments des plus insolites. Un vérita ble enchantement pour les yeux, mais aussi un message subtil glissé dans chaque détail. « Je travaille pour de futures mariées, dit Irène, et comme ce jour est unique dans leur vie, je prends soin de réaliser des robes qui leur ressemblent. Je puise donc dans leur histoire, leur personnalité et leurs désirs afin de définir les couleurs, et même les éléments que j'utiliserai dans ma création. » Ses créations ne sont pas à la portée de toutes les bourses, puisqu'il en coûte entre 1500 et 3000 dollars pour faire appel à ses talents, mais comme elle le dit elle-même, « je trouve regrettable que les robes de mariage atterrisent dans un tiroir ou une boîte une fois que le jour du mariage est passé. Mes robes étant de réelles œuvres d'art, mes cli

entes peuvent en exposer une partie, ou bien la totalité, sur un mannequin dans leur maison. Ces pièces ont donc une seconde vie très honorable. » L'art peut donc intégrer notre quo tidien sous bien des formes. Bien sûr, tout le monde ne dispose pas des compétences d'Irène Kérisit, mais il est étonnant de constater à quel point les chemins qui mènent à la création peuvent être multiples et ouverts à tous. « Je crois que chaque créa tion qui a nécessité une bonne dose d'imagination et un travail minutieux doit être considéré comme une œuvre d'art », avance Olga Maksimova. « Et je crois que l'art du recyclage permet à de nombreuses personnes d'oser mon trer ce qu'elles font, car elles pensent d'ordinaire que ce qui n'est pas peint ou sculpté selon les normes artistiques ne mérite pas d'être vu. », rajoute t elle en nous montrant Canada Gun, une petite sculpture réalisée par Sunny Sparapani, un jeune garçon de 11 ans. L'invitation est lancée à tous les créateurs en herbe!

Cliquez l'été

CANDY MARTEL Le programme Destination Clic, du Conseil des ministres de l'Éducation (Canada) [CMEC] pourraient être une merveilleuse occasion d'enrichir son français et de participer à une expéri ence inoubliable en compagnie d'autres jeunes dans une province autre que la vôtre. Destination Clic permet aux jeunes âgés de 14 et 15 ans de partici per à un programme de trois semaines à l'Université du Québec à Trois Rivières. Également ce même programme invite les élèves de la 11e et 12e année et les étu diants au postsecondaire francophones hors Québec d'aller soit au Québec, en Ontario ou au Nouveau Brunswick pour faire de la radio, du théâtre ou d'autres activités en français, et ce, pendant cinq semaine. L'objectif, bien entendu, reste toujours d'enrichir son français. Des bourses de 2 000 \$ sont offertes et couvrent le cours de français, le matériel didactique, les repas et l'hébergement pendant les trois ou cinq semaines, ainsi qu'une partie des frais de voyage. Seuls les droits d'inscription de 150 \$ et l'argent de poche des participants ne sont pas couverts. Pour avoir plus d'informations, il vous est toujours possible de visiter notre site Web à l'adresse suivante : www.destina tioncl.ca ou de nous contacter au 780 427 2940. La date limite pour faire une demande est le 15 mars 2007.

Islam et liberté: une guerrière de la liberté raconte

Ma vie: Rebelle  
Par Ayaan Hirsi  
Nil Editions, 2006  
JASMINE BOISSONAUT  
Revue de livres

En exposant les vérités d'un indivi du donné, certaines autobiogra phies rejoignent leurs lecteurs sous la forme d'une leçon de vie sur le coura ge, la force et le désir de liberté. Celle d'Ayaan Hirsi Ali fait partie de cette catégorie. De son enfance dans les quartiers délabrés et miséreux de Mogadiscio, en Somalie, à son élec tion dans le parlement néerlandais, Ali nous raconte son parcours de combattant centré autour d'un désir éminent de liberté. Elle est la fille d'un ancien dissident politique à

la dictature de Siyad Barré qui avait secouée la Somalie pendant des décennies. Après son exil aux Pays Bas, celle qui fut nommée par *Time Magazine* en 2005 comme une des cent personnalités les plus influen tes du monde, s'engage dans la lutte contre le fondamentalisme islamiste en Europe. Dans sa quête de liberté, la député néerlandaise nous conte l'histoire de sa vie et de celle de toutes ces femmes excisées et cloîtrées au nom de dogmes religieuses qui nécessi tent de plus en plus d'interrogations internes. Ainsi, l'autobiographie d'Ayaan Hirsi Ali conduit au milieu des islamistes des diasporas d'Europe où le challenge se situe dans la cohabitation entre les démocrat ies européennes et les collectivités

immigrantes islamistes. Pourtant, comme le dit Shirin Ebadi, l'islam n'est pas incompatible à la démocra tie. D'où le combat de Ayaan Hirsi Ali et de la prix Nobel de paix pour une re-conceptualisation de la place de la femme dans la religion musulmane telle que pratiquée aujourd'hui en Occident et ailleurs. Un islam qu'il serait par ailleurs utile de différencier de l'islamisme. À la fin de son livre, Ayaan Hirsi Ali avoue qu'elle ne serait pas deve nue la femme qu'elle est si elle n'avait pas trouvé aux Pays Bas l'hospitalité et l'ouverture qui lui ont assuré la dignité d'être humain et la place de reconnaissance qui appartient à tout individu dans toute société. Si Ayaan Hirsi Ali a pu retrouver la lib erté d'existence, d'expression et de

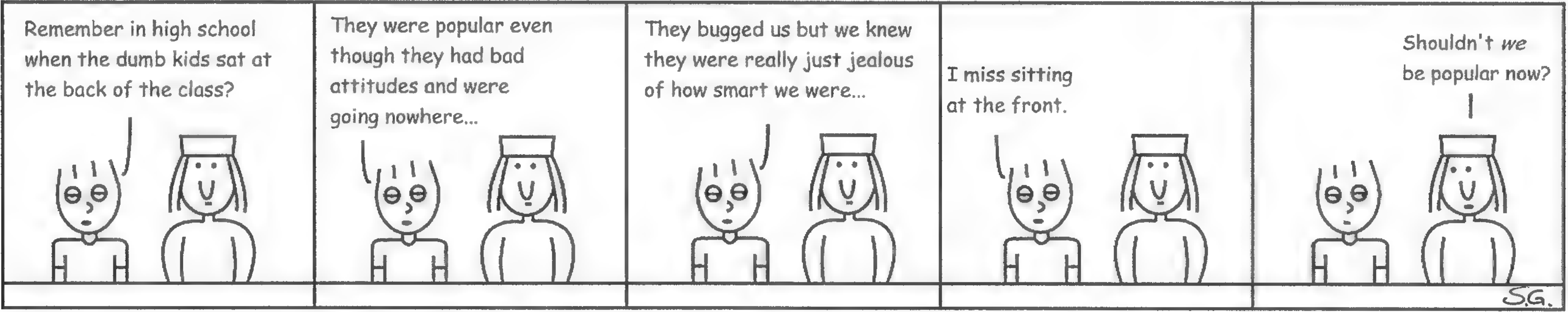
création, on pourrait se demander à raison si l'Occident serait l'avenir de l'islam ? L'actualité et l'importance de la biographie de Ali résident non seule ment dans les questions fondamen tales qu'elle aide à poser, mais aussi et surtout dans les réponses qu'elle suggère. Plus que tout autre chose, ce livre nous permet de comprendre l'urgence de la nécessité de cohabita tion entre les religions, les cultures et les civilisations. En ce sens, Ali est d'un apport significatif dans nos analyses des situations de conflits tant en Irak, en Somalie que dans nos communautés qui accueillent des immigrants de toutes horizons. La lucidité de l'auteur permet une lecture intéressante du livre. Je le recommande à tous.



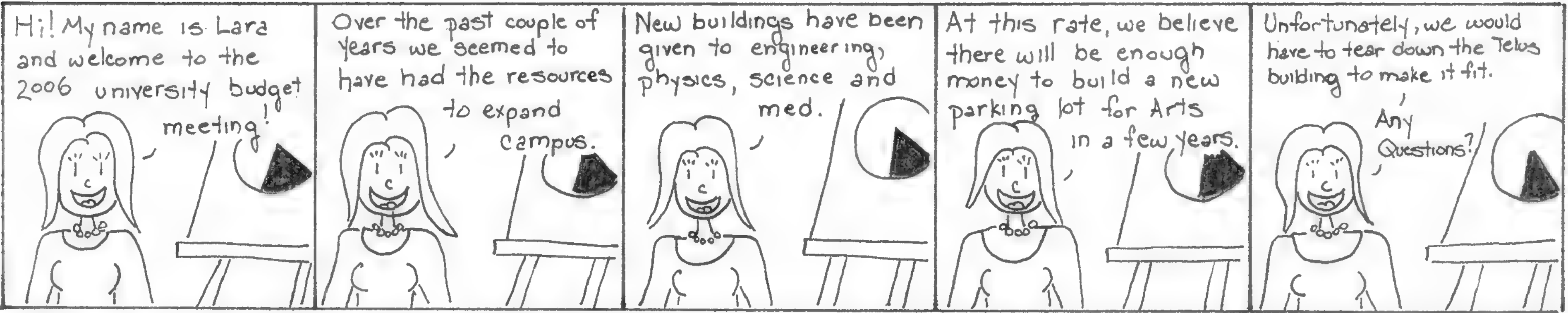
THE LITTLEST EMO by Date Broad and Thea Wingert



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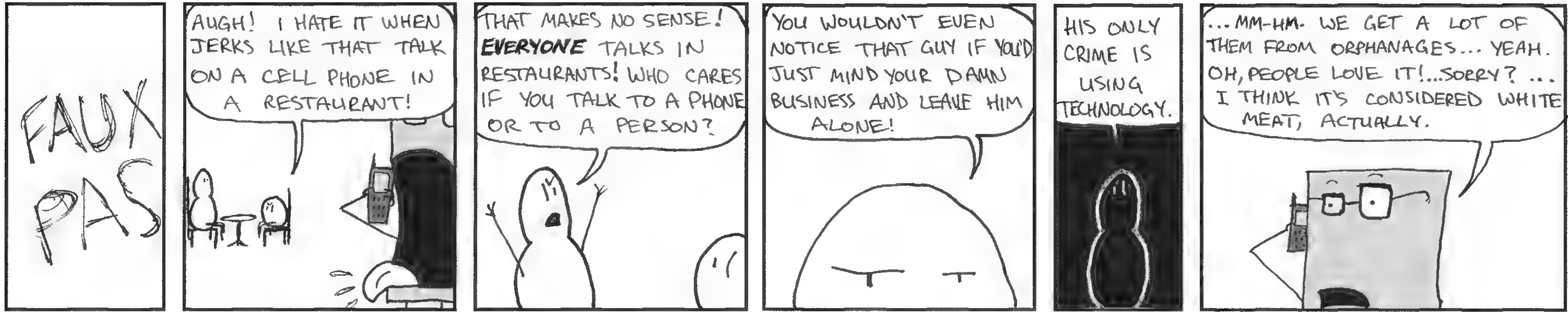
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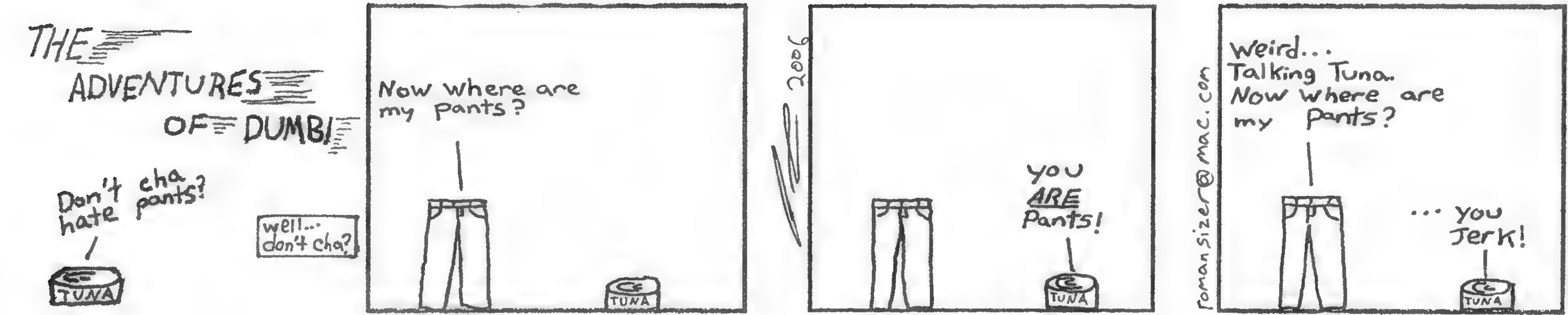
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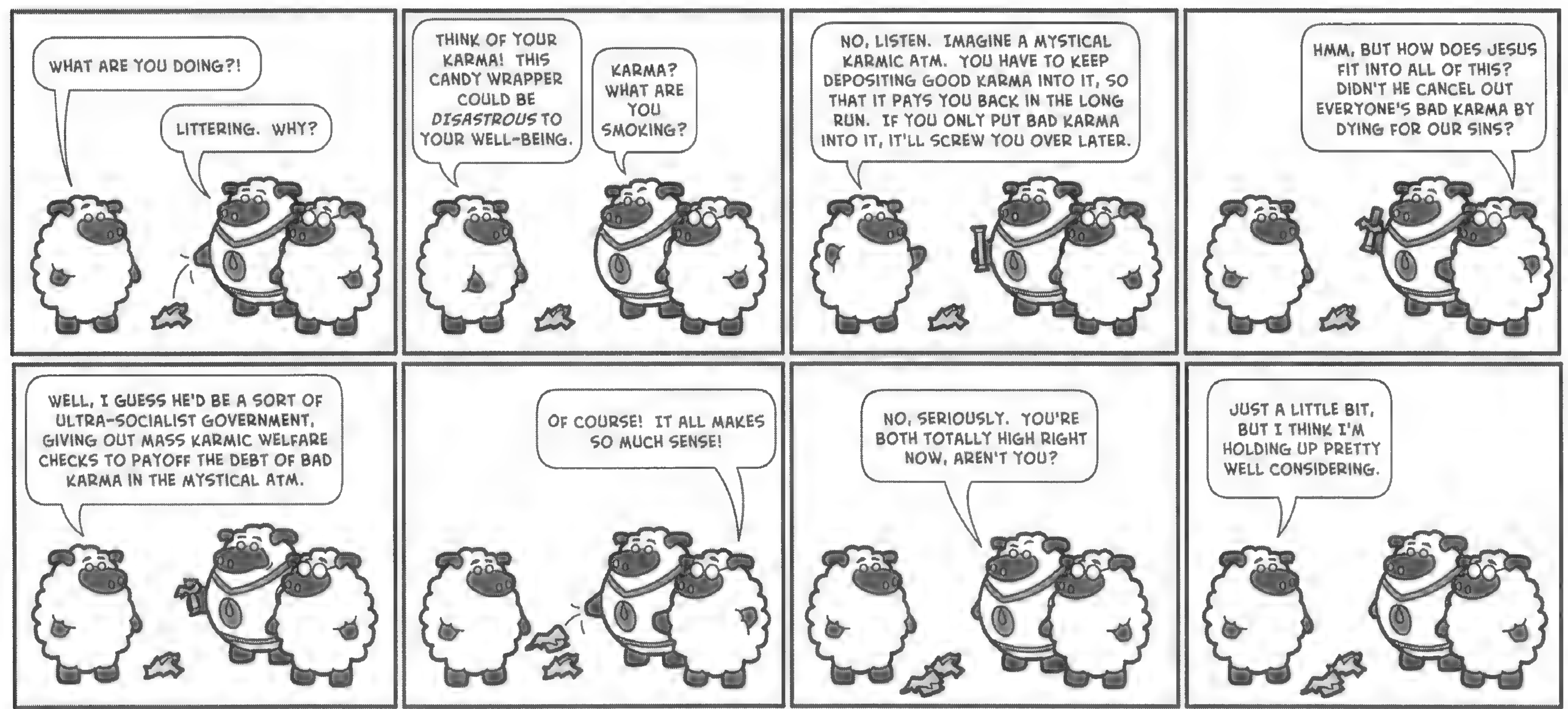
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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Edmonton YMCA Child Care Services now hiring for positions working with children ages 5-12. Respond, M-F 3-6pm Westmount, M-F 7-9am, 11-1 Twin Brooks, M-F 7-9am, 3-6 Stratford, M-F 7-9am, 3-6 North East, TWR 3-6 North West, M-F 7-9am, 3-6. Free YMCA Membership with employment. Salary starts at \$9.00 per hour. Minimum 4 hours per week. Please include location and availability in resume. E-mail resume to [cade@edmonton.ymca.ca](mailto:cade@edmonton.ymca.ca) or fax to Candace at 425-1346.

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Cultura Connections Institute The Learning Exchange is looking for volunteers to teach English as a Second Language (ESL) to adult newcomers to Canada. Orientation and training is provided. Morning, afternoon, and evening shifts available. Call 944-0792.

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### LOST AND FOUND

Lost 30 Nov 2006 Creative MP3 Player with Skull Candy earphones at Bus Rm 1-09. Reward. 780-633-4221.

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# student achievement awards

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Each award winner will receive a \$1000.00 cheque.

Each applicant must submit:

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Applications are available at all InfoLink Desks, Faculty Offices, all University Residences and 2-900 SUB.

Completed application packages must be received by January 23rd, 2007 at 5:00 pm in 2-900 SUB.





## THE GATEWAY

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## colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, Jmax PowerLook 1000 flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images. And Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files. All content is printed directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of **FENCE**, **Joanna**, **Kepler** and **Whitney**. The Manitoban is the Gateway's sister paper and we love her dearly, though not in that way. The Gateway's games of choice are *SimCity 4* and *World of Warcraft*.

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## PSE lacks direction: report

CCL • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Carl Amrhein, U of A Provost, agreed that retiring faculty and class sizes was a problem, and the Administration is looking to convince the province to fund more positions.

"[We're taking] an approach to create 500 additional faculty positions. We'll be talking to the ministry soon, once the new minister gets up and running, to hopefully convince the government this is a smart thing to do."

While education in Canada is a provincial responsibility, Cappon argued that a coherent national strategy is necessary to compete against an increasingly knowledge- and research-intensive global market. At the moment, Canada's fractured provincial system is far too inefficient to meet the country's needs.

"We don't have a system in Canada at all, we have 13 systems. [One] in each province and territory, to the extent that they are not working together," Cappon said.

Cournoyer agreed that a federal plan on higher education was overdue in Canada.

"It could be very beneficial in the long run if Canada came up with a national strategy," he said. "Especially with a federal election coming up, it might pressure the government to think a lot more about these issues."

A federal strategy for education is something that should be approached carefully, argued Amrhein. He says that

there are certain benefits associated with the current system that might be lost.

"One of the risks of a national strategy is that everyone begins to look like that," Amrhein said. "The absence of a federal strategy has allowed a lot of innovation, a lot of differentiation. The benefits ... [are] that you begin to align the resources of different levels of government."

"It would be extraordinarily good news if the federal government could find a way to work with the provinces so we don't lose the richness, which is a good thing, but we [gain] the ability to coordinate our activities which would be a very good thing," he added.

The report might be the first of its kind, but it won't be the last. The CCL has plans to release annual reports as a follow-up, to gauge what improvements are made to the system over the coming years. Cappon believes that the first step should be to set concrete goals for the nation's directionless education system.

"The way it works now in Canada as if you were a student going to university and you didn't know what you wanted to study. You didn't know why it was important, you didn't know how to measure success, and you didn't know when you finished university whether or not you had achieved your goals. That's what we have now," Cappon concluded.

## Voters hail insulin as Canada's top invention

OLESIA PLOKHIII  
News Writer

According to a CBC poll, whose results were announced early this month, viewers selected insulin as the greatest Canadian invention of all time. This, more than any other, is an invention they simply couldn't live without and one that continues to propel innovative research.

University of Alberta Diabetes researcher Dr Alex Rabinovitch couldn't agree more. He, like hundreds of other Canadians, believes that the 1923 invention by Frederick Banting, assisted by colleagues Charles Best and James Collip, has assisted in controlling diabetes by effectively balancing blood glucose levels in patients. Collip, who headed the U of A's Department of Biochemistry, was on a sabbatical in Toronto when he helped with the insulin project.

"A high blood glucose over several years damages blood vessels in many organs, causing blindness, strokes, heart attacks, kidney failure and amputations, either in type one or type two diabetes," Rabinovitch said.

And while insulin has been around for almost a century, work at the U of A is continuing to focus on treating one of Canada's biggest kill-

ers. Rabinovitch's laboratory team at the Muttart Diabetes Research and Training Centre has found a way to regenerate pancreatic insulin-producing beta-cells in mice that have developed a form of autoimmune diabetes similar to what's found in patients with type one diabetes.

"We have been able to cure these mice of diabetes by treating them with certain growth factor peptides ... based on these recently published research findings, these growth factors are now being tested in clinical trials of patients with diabetes; both type one and type two," he said.

Rabinovitch explained that continued recognition of this life-saving invention is an important step in creating awareness for insulin research funding.

"Hopefully, government funding agencies will realize the value of increasing funding for diabetes research in Canada," he said.

Although Rabinovitch admitted that insulin is likely to continue to be needed for the therapy of type one diabetes for some time, he remained optimistic about the future.

"We hope that our recent findings of new therapies to regenerate the patient's own pancreatic beta-cells may one day be able to replace insulin therapy for diabetic patients."

## STREETERS

As you may be aware, we're ten days into a new year (2007, for those who are temporally-disadvantaged).

Did you make any New Year's resolutions and, if so, how are they going so far?



Paul Szabo  
Arts I



Barry Deford  
Education III



Mark Prokopiuk  
Science V



Khalid  
Moustarah  
Education III

I made a resolution to get in better shape. I wasted \$60 dollars on a locker at the Van Vleet Centre, so hopefully I'll actually use it.

I resolved to get way better marks. Three days into the new term, confidence is at an all-time high.

I resolved to drink slightly less than usual. I ran out of money, so that kind of helps.

Go to all my classes and stay awake for at least two out of three of them. It's going pretty good so far, except for some dozing in and out.

Compiled and photographed by Steve Smith and Krystina Sulatycki

**07's Back to School Headquarters**

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CROSSING HIS T'S AND DOTTING HIS I'S Doug Horner is enjoying settling in to his new role as cabinet minister.

# Horner a self-dubbed student as new postsecondary minister

CHLOÉ FEDIO  
Managing Editor

Now that the dust has settled on the Progressive Conservative leadership race, which saw Ralph Klein hand the reigns over to Ed Stelmach, the Alberta government is beginning to hone in on its objectives for the year to come. For Doug Horner, MLA for Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert, this means saying goodbye to his role as minister of agriculture, food and rural development, and taking on the new Department of Advanced Education and Technology.

Horner explained that the fusion of advanced education with innovation and technology is a good fit, as post-secondary institutions are home to much of the research that goes on in the province. And though he's new in the post, appointed on 15 December, Horner said he's no stranger to either of the two departments that make his new portfolio.

"Research and development, and postsecondary education in the agricultural field is critical to the success of the agricultural industry in the future—and that's true of just about all the industry that we have and the new ones to come," Horner said, adding that in today's knowledge-based society, education is "a critical factor for Alberta's growth."

Over the past twelve months, the advanced education portfolio has been led under three different ministers. Dave Hancock resigned from his post before the conclusion of the postsecondary review he initiated to run for party leadership, and the portfolio was appointed to Denis Herard, who announced a new tuition policy for the province in November.

Raj Pannu, NPD critic for advanced education and technology, said that the changes in the government left unanswered questions about whether Klein's promise that Alberta would have the most affordable tuition in the country would be fulfilled. He said that when Herard took over, the ministry dragged its heels before finally coming up with the long-anticipated policy.

"I, first of all, didn't find minister Herard cooperative with us on that matter. He took much too long a time to come up with some sort of a position, and that was a

partial sort of announcement," the MLA for Edmonton-Strathcona said, adding that the policy was a disappointment.

Stelmach is meeting with his caucus next week to set priorities for the government, however he has already placed the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology as the second-highest senior Cabinet position behind the President of the Treasury Board. Horner explained that the government is currently planning the budget, but wouldn't comment any further.

"I can't tell you what's going to be in the budget, because then they'd throw me in jail," he said.

Horner hinted that future announcements from the ministry would be linked to affordability of a postsecondary education, but continued to be tight-lipped on the subject.

**"I can't tell you what's going to be in the budget, because then they'd throw me in jail."**

**DOUG HORNER,  
MINISTER OF ADVANCED  
EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

"Affordability is a fuzzy kind of thing in a lot of ways because what do you include in affordability?" he asked, pointing to the varying methods of calculating affordability in different areas. "I'm a learner right now; I'm a student myself."

Dave Cournoyer, Students' Union Vice-President (External), said that the change in government leadership is an opportunity for the ministry to make some positive changes for post-secondary.

"Our positions haven't changed; we're still advocating for accessible, affordable and quality education for students. We will be meeting with the Minister, but we're waiting to see what type of direction the Minister and the new Premier would like to take with postsecondary education. I'm optimistic," Cournoyer said.

In May, the government passed Bill 40, which amended the Postsecondary Learning Act, taking

tuition out of legislation. Cournoyer explained that without legislation, changes can be made to the tuition policy in closed-door Cabinet meetings, which is a source of concern for students as debate is limited.

"We will make sure the Minister hears our concerns about the tuition policy being re-legislated back into the Postsecondary Learning Act so that further changes can be made in the Legislature and undergo public scrutiny," he said.

However, Horner said he doesn't anticipate the putting the tuition policy back into legislation.

"I think in some ways you want flexibility to be able to deal with issues as they arise as it relates to tuition, and legislation is a slower process than that," Horner said.

Maurice Tougas, the new Liberal critic for advanced education and technology, replaced his colleague Dave Taylor in the shadow Cabinet this week, as Stelmach's restructuring of Cabinet from 24 ministers to 18 left his party in need of similar reorganization.

"I found Klein—there was a real arrogance to him especially in the Legislature itself and I thought that rubbed off on a lot of his ministers, so we'll see if Ed Stelmach's the same kind of person or not," Tougas said. "I don't think so; I think it might be a little bit more civil in the Legislature, but maybe that's just wishful thinking on my part."

Horner explained that though the premier has changed, the government's goals haven't been drastically altered.

"Because we're blending two departments together, our first priority is to ensure that we have a strong foundation from which to grow and build the initiative that in many cases have already been started," Horner said.

Though Cournoyer conceded that the merger of two portfolios was positive, he was concerned that the focus on research at institutions in the province would overshadow instruction.

"It's critical that the provincial government make sure that there's a balance at our universities between it as teaching institution for undergraduates and a research institution as well," Cournoyer said.

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## CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Mike Otto

### THE HUNGRY, HUNGRY HOBO

At 2:51am on 27 November, some surprised students reported an unknown male had entered their suite in HUB, and was in the process of helping himself to a snack. The residents stayed in their rooms awaiting the arrival of 5-0, who found a disoriented male outside in the mall that matched the description of the fridge raider. He was known to constables and was noticed to be under the influence of paint thinner. He was escorted to Whyte Avenue.

### OPERATION PATRON SAINT

At 4:15am on 2 December, Campus Security received a report of an intoxicated, disoriented and freezing student lost on campus in the -30 degree night. The cellphone number of the student was provided, and fortunately after a number of attempts the student answered. He could not provide any information about his location, aside from the fact that it was a well-lit area. Realizing the difficulty of finding a proverbial needle in a frozen haystack, Edmonton Police was contacted to assist. A clever constable turned on his patrol car's siren, asking the student if he could hear the sound. Attempts at Saskatchewan Drive and 115 Street and near the Butterdome proved fruitless, but the student heard the officer made near Corbett Hall. The search area narrowed, 5-0 quickly found the student near 83 Avenue and 114 Street. He was only partially clothed and unable to move; officers took him to the hospital where he received treatment for severe hypothermia and frostbite.

### AW, LOOK AT THE WHEEL BABY

At 1:42pm on 2 December, reports came in of a male acting strangely in Courts library (Education and Phys Ed). He was reported to be jumping up and down, throwing things, and being generally annoying. The reason why the male, who appeared to be

about 20-years-old, threw a tantrum was unknown, but he had been kicked off campus by 5-0 previously. He was once again trespassed from campus.

### MOVING ON UP FROM THE STAIRWELL

At 10:48am on 4 December, a male was found sleeping near the HUB admin office. He was known to CSS for sleeping on campus and was on probation for theft and other property offences. He was escorted off campus via the LRT.

### AT LEAST HE WASN'T NAKED

At 9:23am on 8 December, 5-0 responded to a call of a 60-year-old male lurking in the female locker room in the Phys Ed building. Shortly after, he was located and found to be intoxicated and in possession of a small knife. He was promptly arrested and turned over to Edmonton Police. Charges for mischief are pending, and thankfully his release conditions include an order never to return to campus.

### UNCOUTH YOUTH

At 11:35pm on 10 December, a young male asked Campus Security constables on patrol for a ride home. Though they have a sexy fleet of cruisers, 5-0 is not in the taxi business, a fact the young man did not appreciate having pointed out. He became a little too fighty for the officers' tastes and was arrested; they determined he was on probation for property offences. Apparently the youth felt like racking up some more charges, as he tried to kick out the doors and windows of the patrol car. In the end he got a ride home from his grandfather, and perhaps a good spanking as well.

### SHORTEST GETAWAY EVER

At 6:40pm on 19 December, Campus Security responded to a call of a suspicious male in SUB. It was reported a laptop and jacket had been stolen from a student. Constables tracked down the same sketchy fellow spotted earlier in SUB, now in HUB Mall; he was known to 5-0 and had previously been removed from campus. Campus Security took him into custody and found him to be in possession of the stolen jacket and computer. The property was turned over to the grateful student, and the thief was turned over to Edmonton Police.

## COUNCIL FORUM

Written by Scott Lilwall

### THE MAN WITH THE PLAN(S)

Students' Council opened this week with a presentation by University Provost Carl Amrhein, who set forth some of the budget items, as well as the framework for the academic plan for the coming year.

In the presentation, Amrhein explained the proposed fee increases for the 2007/08 year. Tuition was marked to rise at 3.6 per cent, matched at Alberta CPI. The rent increase was still on the table, meaning that students could see a potential 3-10 per cent increase. A slight raise in the cost of meal plans was also proposed.

### COKE KERFUFFLE

A anti-Coca-Cola presentation from a group of students was scheduled to take place next, as Council is considering bringing the question of contract renewal to students in the spring election. However, Students' Union Vice-President (Operations & Finance) Chris Cunningham moved to postpone indefinitely the presentation, and instead moved to approve a plebiscite question regarding the single-source beverage agreement. Cunningham pointed out that rules prevented Council from voting on a motion related to a presentation made during the same meeting.

Others argued that the anti-Coke lobbyists were a student organization and had a right to be heard, and that the company was able to respond to questions or concerns through e-mail. Eventually, the motion was defeated, and the presentation began (Please see the related story on page 1).

### NURSING AND NON-PROFIT

After the presentation, a motion brought by VP (Academic) Amanda Henry asked Council to give the Faculty of Nursing the ability to draw a fee from its students. The fee would be used to fund executive meetings, and to set up an emergency fund for nursing students in financial need. The motion passed with a quick vote. Before the fee can be drawn, however, nursing students will have to vote on the matter.

Another motion was brought forward to declare the SU a non-profit organization. Although provincial legislation listed the SU as a NPO, the City of Edmonton was in doubt about

its status, which led to SU-run businesses being assessed business taxes in 2005 and 2006. The motion passed without much opposition, explicitly setting the NPO status in Council bylaws in an effort to avoid confusion in the future.

### QUESTION PERIOD

Cunningham answered a question about the financial situation of the Powerplant by saying that they were eliminating the dinner buffet in an effort to reduce costs. The lunch buffet would remain open.

VP (External) Dave Cournoyer also answered a question regarding the SU's plans with dealing with Alberta's new Minister of Advanced Education and Technology, explaining that the SU was waiting to see the priorities of the new Cabinet before deciding on a concrete plan.

### SLATES AND THE GREAT ACCESS FUND DEBATE

A motion to change the way that slate candidates were allowed to spend their budget was next on the agenda. Under the old rules, the candidates were each given a certain amount to spend on campaign, as well as some to spend on advertising the slate as a whole. The motion left the decision on how to split up the budget to the individual candidates, as long as each was given at least ten per cent of the budget.

After the U-Pass question was read into Council for a second time, Cunningham brought forward a motion to suspend the standing orders of Council, allowing the vote on the Coca-Cola question. The motion was defeated, and the matter of the Coke plebiscite question was pushed back to the next Council meeting.

Finally, Council moved on to the Access Fund, designed to help U of A students in financial need. A motion to eliminate the fund's investment requirements, which invests ten per cent of the fund's yearly income in hopes of making the fund self-sustaining in the future. Supporters of the motion reasoned that it was impossible to guess at the financial needs of future students. They argued that it was better to use the money to provide for present students. Others felt that it was important to keep the fund as is, providing help for future students at the U of A.

After a very lengthy debate on the issue, Council voted to move the Access Fund motion to the next meeting. With the matter postponed and the weather worsening, Council adjourned for the night.

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FILE PHOTO: JOSH NAULT

**THEY DON'T SERVE PI HERE** Arts has opened up their doors students who still count on their fingers and sleep in labs.

# Faculty of Arts subtracts math and sciences from admission equation

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
Senior News Editor

Grade-twelve students currently struggling to pass their high school science or math courses will be happy to know that they no longer need them to gain access into the University of Alberta's Faculty of Arts.

A proposed change to the faculty's admission policies to remove the math and science requirement was officially passed by the Arts Faculty Council on 30 November, 2006 and will come into effect Fall 2007. With the new requirements, Arts applicants will need English and four other subjects—with a maximum of only one fine arts course.

Faculty of Arts Dean Dr Daniel Woolf explained one of the benefits of broadening the admission requirements is that it has the potential to increase access for out-of-province students wishing to study at the U of A.

"We're not expecting great numbers [of out-of-province students], but we have relatively few for a national level university—we would like a few more applicants from outside into the mix," Woolf said, adding that the new system will also help international students, many of whom don't necessarily have the background needed under the old requirements.

However, Arts Student Association President Tim Schneider doesn't share Woolf's enthusiasm with the changes.

"I'm sort of disappointed in the Faculty of Arts for making this move, that's really all I can say. I think it's a disservice to students who are coming into the faculty," Schneider said, explaining that not all students may realize that there are still some programs within the Faculty of Arts,

such as Economics and Psychology, in which students will continue to require a math and science background in order to be successful.

"Students will have to read fairly carefully the requirements not just of the Faculty but of particular disciplines within Arts and think carefully about what they take in high school," Arts Executive Committee member Alan Cliff noted.

**"We're still going to have competitive students."**

**ALAN CLIFF,  
ARTS EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE MEMBER**

However, Cliff also highlighted the fact that not all jurisdictions can offer all the courses that the Faculty of Arts had previously required and that there's no reason to believe the changes will decrease the quality of Arts applicants.

"We're still going to have competitive students," Cliff said. "If you have a student who comes in with a 90 per cent average [in] English, Social, Latin, Greek, History, Geography or something but doesn't have math or science that's probably still going to be a pretty strong history student or philosophy student."

According to Students' Union Vice-President (Academic) Amanda Henry, one of the benefits of the new requirements is that it makes it easier for a student whose aptitude is in non-mathematical disciplines to still get into university.

"It doesn't disadvantage students who aren't in science for a reason," Henry said, adding that students still

need to be aware that if they don't have Pure Math 30 there's no remedial course offered at the U of A.

"The University's said on a number of occasions that they're not going to go into the business of remedial training for masses of students," Henry said.

"It's not actually necessary that people have those other [science and math] courses in order to succeed," Cliff said, adding that the Faculty of Arts has decided to put some trust in students to have individual responsibility and make sure that they take the courses that they may eventually need.

Acting Associate Dean of Student Programs Dr Raleigh Whittinger, who noted that the old requirements had been around since the early '90s, also stressed that high-school students shouldn't view this as a green light to abandon their math and sciences courses.

Whittinger explained that the Faculty of Arts will make every attempt to put a lot of clarity in the University Calendar alerting students at several points that, though they are theoretically capable to take a pass on things like Pure Math 30 or a science course, they should very much keep their options open and retain their own flexibility.

But while the first batch of applicants under the new system is yet to come, student representatives have said they will have to wait and see what the long-term effect of these changes may be.

"I'm looking at it hesitantly and we'll see where it goes. I'm really not too happy about it," Schneider said.

"This is one of those things where we're going to have to wait four or five years to see if there's any ramifications or not," Henry concluded.

## ARTS REQUIREMENTS: NOW & THEN

Previously, high-school graduates applying to the Faculty of Arts were required to present a variety of courses, which, aside from English or Language Arts 30, included:

- Pure Mathematics 30 or a 30-level language other than English
- Social Studies 30 or a 30-level language other than English
- One 30-level from either Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Pure Mathematics, or Mathematics 31
- One 30-level course not yet used from of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Pure Mathematics, Mathematics 31, a 30-level language other than English, Social 30, or a Fine Arts Subject.

Under the new approved admission standards, applicants are required to present, aside from English or Language Arts

30, four courses chosen from three groups. These groups include Humanities, Fine Arts and Sciences, where only one selection may be made from Fine Arts. This means that students need not apply with any 30-level science course or Pure Mathematics 30.

However, students wishing to transfer into Business are still required to present Pure Mathematics 30. Also, students wishing to pursue majors or minors in Psychology or Economics are suggested to do the same.

Compared to other universities across Canada, the U of A's Arts admission standards are now significantly less academically diverse, as most other schools require at least an equivalence of Pure Mathematics 30 and at least one 30-level science course.

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2002/2003 - Dr. A. Mar, Chemistry  
2002/2003 - Dr. P. Fedorak, Biological Science  
2002/2003 - Dr. M. Shirvani, Mathematical & Statistical Science

Nomination Procedures: A letter of nomination signed by at least 10 undergraduate students plus any supporting material, which is thought to be appropriate, should be submitted to the Chair of the Award for Excellent Teaching Committee for each nominee. The appropriate science department will ensure that all nominations are fully documented before submission to this Committee.

Eligibility: Nominees for the Faculty of Science Award for Excellent Teaching must have held a full time Faculty appointment in the Faculty of Science at this University for at least five years prior to nomination. Previous Winner(s) of the award are excluded from further competition.

Students can also nominate Professors from a Faculty other than Science to receive a Certificate for Excellent Teaching (details are available from CW223 Biological Sciences Building).

Contact the Chair of the Faculty of Science Award for Excellent Teaching  
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Dr. Brenda Leskiw, Associate Dean  
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	8.5x11	\$0.69	\$1.30
	8.5x14	\$0.89	\$1.70
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# Coca-Cola ready to defend itself against allegations

## A brief history of Coke's presence on campus

**1995:** University of British Columbia signs first Canadian University Single-Source Cold Beverage Agreement.

**Early 1996:** University of Alberta invites the SU to participate in a process evaluating the impact and implications of a SSCB agreement with Pepsi-Cola or Coca-Cola.

**March 1998:** A plebiscite is held during SU elections to approve the SSCB; it passes with 55.9 per cent of students in favour.

**7 September, 2005:** The Gateway files a Freedom of Information Privacy (FolP) request to the University to access the SSCB Contract.

**8 December, 2005:** A censored copy of the contract is presented to The Gateway with key financial figures blacked out.

**12 January, 2006:** The Gateway files for a provincial review of the FolP request in regards to the missing figures; this request is still pending.

**5 December, 2006:** Coke makes a presentation to Council and opens up the contract to students.

**9 January, 2007:** A Colombian student activist group makes a presentation in Council Chambers, illustrating Coca-Cola's alleged environmental and human rights violations in its global operations.

## Evaluating the Options ...

### Option A:

- Adhere to the current agreement ten-year contract ending May 2008, with an unfunded two-year extension, ending May 2010

**12 years at \$436,613 per year**

### Option B:

- Extend the agreement Retroactively terminate the current contract and set a new ten-year agreement from the period of 1 June, 2005 to 31 May, 2015

**17 years at \$525,627 per year**

COKE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Right now if we didn't extend the contract we're stuck in a period where we'll be getting no funding for the next two years," Cunningham said, noting that there was no chance of the U of A meeting the vending quotas.

Cunningham explained that Coke gives the U of A about \$500 000 per year towards scholarships and bursaries as well as roughly \$50 000 for SU-run student services.

**"Coca-Cola's human rights and environmental abuses are wide-spread and they are well recorded."**

**AARON CHUBB, STUDENTS AGAINST KILLER COKE**

But, despite the monetary gains, not everyone is pleased with the thought of considering a new contract.

"We believe that Council has a responsibility to not renew the contract because of the ethical concerns," Aaron Chubb from Students Against Killer Coke said. Chubb, along with other anti-Coke lobbyists, made a presentation at Tuesday's Students' Council meeting urging councillors against the renegotiated agreement.

"Coca-Cola's human rights and environmental abuses are wide-spread and they are well recorded," Chubb said, stating that by choosing to continue to do business with Coke the SU was going against its own Ethical Business Partners policy.

Prior to the presentation, Cunningham voiced his disapproval to Council, stat-

ing it served little purpose when at the 5 December Students' Council meeting Coke had flown in representatives from Colombia and Atlanta for a panel discussion aimed at addressing Council's concerns. However, Cunningham's motion against the presentation was unsuccessful.

Pablo Largacha, director of public affairs and communications at in the Coca-Cola Company's headquarters in Atlanta, defended the allegations that the corporation had engaged in unethical labour and work-place practices in Colombia, or that it benefited from environmental abuses in India.

Largacha acknowledged that there's evidence being presented on both sides of the debate, but he urged students pursue their own research into the issues.

"I think it all goes to the objectivity which students need to resort to in order to judge what [are] baseless accusations [...and what] are decisions and verdicts by legitimate authorities," Largacha said.

Exclusive single-source beverage contracts have become common on North American campuses; however, the trend is being discontinued in some instances.

The University of British Columbia was the first campus in Canada to sign an exclusivity contract with the Coca-Cola Company back in 1995, but the Alma Mater Society (AMS), the UBC student government, passed a motion last fall against pursuing another exclusive agreement.

Like the U of A, UBC's contract included a provision that a two-year no-funding penalty would occur if the university didn't meet sales targets. AMS Vice-President (External Affairs)

Ian Pattillo explained that UBC is currently in its last year of that penalty period, but that the financial repercussions weren't enough to deter their decision.

"Our budget has had to seriously adjust to not having those reoccurring revenues," Pattillo said. AMS had heard many of the allegations groups such as Students Against Killer Coke presented, but Pattillo said that monopolizing business practices was their main concern.

**"We have looked into those [allegations] and we have a number of reasons for feeling that we don't see any ground to them."**

**DAVID BRUCH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ANCILLARY SERVICES**

"We recognize that there are two sides to the debate [but] our student representatives have voted that exclusivity isn't appropriate for public institutions to be considering," Pattillo explained.

However, at UBC the decision to renegotiate with Coke lies with their institution's Board of Governors, and unlike at U of A, student were never part of the negotiation process.

SU President Sam Power credited the greater degree of openness at the U of A campus as part of what makes the situation here unique.

"There was a lot of pressure on [Coke] to share a lot of the details that weren't public at other universities,"

Power said, stating that the public disclosure of the contracts terms makes it easier for students to make an informed decision.

At the 5 December meeting, Coke announced that the old contract is now publicly viewable to anyone with a valid student ID.

"It's important that students know exactly what they're getting into," Power said, adding students should vocalize their thoughts on this issue.

David Bruch, Executive Director of Ancillary Services and Chair of the Joint Beverage Committee—the tripartite group that assesses the agreement between the Students' Union, the University and Coke—agreed that the U of A is unique when compared to other universities with exclusivity contracts.

"We don't know of any other agreement like this that's been structured to have student involvement at such a high degree to in fact be a party to the agreement," he said.

Bruch also stressed that despite concerns of unethical business practices, the U of A thoroughly research their potential business partners.

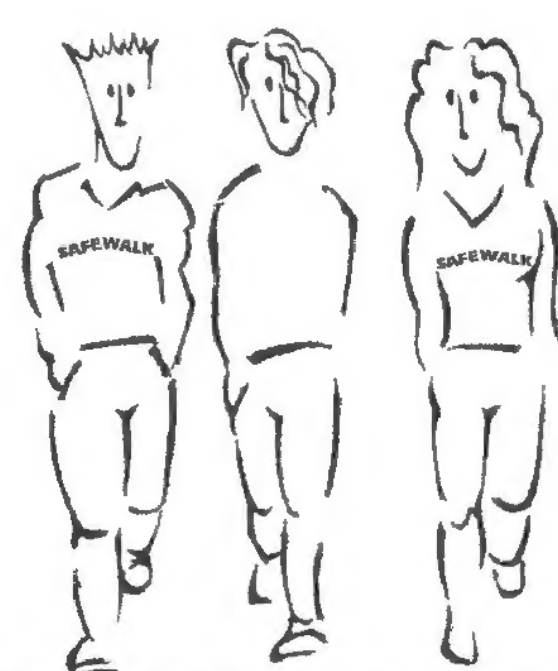
"We have looked into those [allegations] and we have a number of reasons for feeling that we don't see any ground to them," Bruch explained.

However, Chubb said during Tuesday's Council meeting that if the new exclusivity contract is put to a plebiscite question, he along with his colleagues would willingly defend the no-side and set out to prove that life with Coke doesn't necessarily taste good.

"We're more than willing to debate Coca-Cola," Chubb further affirmed.

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# AIDS rates exploding in African-Canadian community: activists

MICHELLE CINELLI  
NightViews

TORONTO (CUP)—In 2006, an estimated 40 million people around the world were living with HIV, according to UNAIDS and the World Health Organization. About 4.3 million people became infected in the last year, while three million died from AIDS-related illnesses.

In light of this continued devastation, a forum to carry the momentum from this summer's International AIDS Conference was held in Toronto the day after the 1 December World AIDS Day by the African and Caribbean Council on HIV/AIDS in Ontario (ACCHO), and Africans in Partnership Against AIDS (APPA).

Notisha Massaquoi, director of the Women's Health in Women's Hands Community Health Centre for black women and women of colour, said the black African and Caribbean diaspora in Canada has seen an 85 per-cent growth of HIV/AIDS in the last five years. That rate is similar to those in the US and UK.

"We are all fighting the same issues regardless of where we live," she said. "HIV isn't just something we read about; it's taking an emotional toll on our lives as black women."

Massaquoi said issues of sexism and homophobia need to be addressed, since silence allows members of the community to be victimized.

"Homophobia is driving the epidemic," Massaquoi said. "[The problem is] our belief systems, not promiscuous or immoral behaviour."

Llana James, an ACCHO member and presenter, said HIV is stigmatized as "a gay thing," and viewed as an isolated issue.

According to a 2006 survey by the International Gay and Lesbian Association, 37 of 54 African countries

have some law against homosexuality and criminalize homosexual people. Punishments include up to four years' worth of hard labour, or even the death penalty.

James said the intense threats felt in their communities make gay black people afraid to come out to their families, and consequently they force themselves into heterosexual behaviour they feel is compulsory.

"There is a feeling that to be queer is 'un-African,'" James said. "Queer people are positioned to choose between being black, or being queer."

**"HIV isn't just something we read about; it's taking an emotional toll on our lives as black women."**

**NOTISHA MASSAQOUI,  
DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S HEALTH  
IN WOMEN'S HANDS**

She said this argument is useless, and it forces homosexual black people to become invisible in their communities.

One group that is certainly not invisible in the battle against AIDS is young people. Rose-Ann Bailey, a youth program coordinator at the Rexdale Community Health Centre in Toronto, said people aged 15-24 represent 50 per cent of all HIV/AIDS infections worldwide.

Bailey said it's important to teach youth tactics for prevention and safer sex, but she warned they need to learn in a language they relate to so that mainstream music doesn't dominate their education.

Dr Mary Ngoma, head of the department of pediatrics at the University of Zambia, drew attention to the toll on

children. She said children under five represent 20 per cent of those living with AIDS.

Ngoma said children can contract HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, from their infected mothers at birth, from finding dirty needles or infected equipment, or from being sexually assaulted by an infected person. AIDS in children can cause many complicated neurological problems such as cerebral palsy, as well as skin lesions and increased chances of illness.

The hospital in Zambia just started treating children in 2004. Though they weren't sufficiently prepared to open, Ngoma said, they had little choice.

"The difference with children is their dependency on adults," Ngoma said. "If a parent is ill, poor or simply in denial about their child's illness, they cannot care for them. There is inadequate counselling for children."

Ngoma also said a person's treatment with anti-retroviral medications can cost a family up to US \$40 000, and most families with infected children also have an infected parent.

"Who carries the cost?" Dr Ngoma asked. "A three-year-old child may be on anti-retrovirals until they are 60."

According to UNAIDS, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, more than US \$18 billion will be needed in 2007 to cover the cost of effective prevention, treatment, care and support programs in low- and middle-income countries.

Esther Baah Amoako, an ACCHO coordinator, spoke about the Keep It Alive AIDS campaign launched by ACCHO to raise awareness locally and internationally, and about the power of co-operative work in the global village.

"AIDS is something that affects us all and there is victory for hard work, collaboration and teamwork," she said.

# Students say yes to ADHD drugs

Medical experts worry students in professional health programs are ignoring what they've learned and abusing prescription meds to boost their study time

SANA SHAHRAM  
The Ubysey

VANCOUVER (CUP)—In professional health programs such as medicine or pharmacy, students are being equipped with knowledge that can be used to abuse the health-care system to their benefit. And, while many forego this practice, others don't.

Students are increasingly finding that the drugs, such as Dexedrine—a drug that functions to lessen fatigue, increase mental activity, elevate mood and create a general feeling of well being—can be helpful in increasing their capacity to study for long hours.

"You can just take a bunch of Dexedrine in the morning, and then you can sit in the library for up to 16 hours without getting tired, and it helps you focus too—fewer distractions," explained a pharmacy student at UBC who wished to remain anonymous.

Ritalin and Dexedrine, both amphetamines—a drug class that includes cocaine—act as stimulants of the sympathetic nervous system and are intended as therapy for people who suffer from Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD).

"You can get used to it. Once you

experience the relative ease of studying with Dexedrine, it's hard to study without," added the student. "It's like, why would you put in the extra effort when you can just cram in one night with Dexedrine and achieve the same results?"

High doses of Dexedrine can result in euphoria, but upon withdrawal it can revert to severe depression and lethargy. These side effects, along with the risk of developing heart arrhythmia and a whole host of related conditions, were why Elinda Ho, the attending doctor in the student clinic, was surprised this kind of abuse was happening.

"Students in the health programs at UBC should know better than anyone else the kinds of side effects these drugs can have, that's why I am surprised this would be happening," she said.

Ho explained that prescriptions for these drugs aren't given easily because of their potential for abuse, and because of their street value: Ritalin is used to cut cocaine, a practice that is common in Vancouver.

The procedure for detection of ADHD is not foolproof. If someone presents with symptoms potentially relating to the disorder, they're usually

sent to an ADHD clinic where they undergo several tests to evaluate their condition. The tests are verbal, and someone who's aware of what's being looked for could presumably fake it.

"That's a lot of hassle to go through though, and can potentially not result in a prescription," Ho said. "I would think that would be deterrent enough for these kids in comparison to the minor edge the drug might get them."

Still, in the competitive world of UBC, even a minor edge can be life altering. But not all students are choosing this route.

Logan McNeil, a third-year pharmacy student, said that although he knows he could potentially have access to the drug, he prefers to study the old-fashioned way.

"It's really a matter of ethics, I think. I mean, in anything competitive, school or sports or otherwise, there are always going to be people who are looking for an unfair advantage," he said.

"Ethically, though, you would hope most people don't, and are just willing to put in the hard work. Especially in professional programs where knowing the information is vital to your job."

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## The public eye finally blinks

AS REPORTED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE *National Post* yesterday, media mogul Rupert Murdoch has banned paparazzi photos of Kate Middleton, Prince William's girlfriend, from his papers. This is, at first blush, a surprising move. Tabloids—of which Murdoch owns many—make a business of taking intrusive photos.

Clearly, then, something is amiss, so let's review this case. Murdoch is responsible for the publication of the British tabloids *The Sun* and the *News of the World*. In August 2006, *News of the World's* royal correspondent and two associates were found guilty of plotting to record phone conversations of members of the royal family and other public figures. Now, Murdoch has banned the publication of intrusive photos of someone close to said family.

This could be seen simply as a gesture of good will. It goes above and beyond the Press Complaints Commission's guidelines, which state that "it is unacceptable to photograph individuals in private places without their consent" and that "private places are public or private property where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy." *News International's* staff photographers are obliged to "operate within the PCC code, which says everyone is entitled to respect for family life and [that] it is unacceptable to photograph individuals in private places without their consent." But if this is the reason for banning its photographers from intruding into Ms Middleton's life, why then has it not banned the publication of intrusive photos, period?

Apparently, a little bad press awhile back, a little good press now and that's all it takes to get into the good books again. And apparently, getting some good press is easy as finding a big story (like rumours about a certain soon-to-be-engaged prince), making a selfless gesture, saying you won't intrude and topping it off with some vague policy language to cover your bases.

Perhaps we should ask what exactly constitutes a paparazzi photograph. The term is fairly vague after all. Is it any interference in the private lives of public figures? If so, can photographers really limit themselves to just capturing their public appearances? We can hardly overlook the fact that this is a big business, and that capturing that one perfect shot can mean a cover story, inciting publication—and scandal—around the globe.

Still, we can't restrict the actions of the paparazzi completely. What would happen if, out of the goodness of their hearts, and in the interest of not intruding into peoples' personal lives, a large majority of tabloids, press agencies and the like agree not to have their photographers stalk their subjects and print intrusive photos? The few rogue photographers who still took pictures would suddenly have a rare commodity that they could sell at a premium to those who are still printing them, essentially giving them a monopoly over that particular market.

Maybe I shouldn't be too critical. Maybe one organization taking a step back will encourage others to do the same. But I can hardly believe that in this cutthroat business, a media mogul like Murdoch would all of the sudden decide to show his softer side with out some sort of sinister ulterior motive.

KRYSTINA SULATYCKI  
Photo Editor

## iPhone-phone-phone-phone-phone

IT'S ALWAYS THE LITTLE GUY WHO TRIES STICK it to the man and rain down on the big parade—in this case, Apple. Communications company Cisco Systems is slapping them with a last-minute lawsuit, claiming ownership over the term "iPhone," despite both parties thinking the naming rights had already been settled. Good for Apple for opting not to splatter their copyright on every new "iSomething" gadget in the first place, but they had to see this kind of fallout coming. At least they could have been little more original, and went with something like the iHoy-Hoy. Alexander Graham Bell would be proud.

MIKE KENDRICK  
Design & Production Editor



ADAM GAUMONT

## LETTERS

### Praise be to Amanda

I wish to express my appreciation for your 9 January editorial, "There's salat to like about new sitcom."

Amanda Ash writes that she hopes *Little Mosque on the Prairie* will show the world "just how ridiculous and naïve they can be about other cultures." As a Muslim, and as a Muslim Canadian, my personal hope is that the show will also help some of my fellow Canadians realize that many of us Muslims are not averse to laughing at ourselves.

When you think of "Islam" or "Muslim," a sense of humour may not necessarily be the first thing that comes to mind. I would like my fellow Canadians to realize that many Muslim Canadians share some of the same sense of laughter that others do. Humour can be an invaluable tool for overcoming communication gaps caused by misunderstanding, fear and ignorance. My hope is that this show will help us all to laugh at the absurdities inherent in day-to-day life, and along with it [make] us pause to reflect on some of our inner biases. Thank you for publishing this editorial.

NADIA HUSSAIN  
Via e-mail

### New ruling puts 'pha,' final 't' in pharmacist

(Re: "Pharmacists get power to prescribe," 30 November). Pharmacist prescribing is a revolutionary step in Canada's health-care system. Consuming 37 per cent of the Alberta government's budget in 2002/2003, our health-care system is one of the most overburdened and expensive institutions in Canada. Despite a \$41.3 billion infusion from the federal government in 2004, the health-care system continues to suffer from a chronic shortage of money, with wait lists remaining long for important quality-of-life-improving interventions such as cataract surgery and hip and knee replacements.

One area that is severely under-

utilized is the skills of other health-care professionals beyond those of physicians. The *Globe and Mail* reported on 2 November 2006 that Canadian doctors are lacking in several areas such as the use of "multi-discipline teams to treat chronic illness." Alberta is attempting to circumvent this deficiency by pursuing alternative means to meet patient care, such as utilizing other health-care professionals such as pharmacists.

A key point expressed in the Health Policy Framework released by the Alberta government in February 2006 expressed that in order to improve patient care, other health-care professions such as pharmacists and nurse practitioners should "assume a greater role in the delivery of primary, preventative and chronic care." This recommendation is based on studies focused on pharmacist interventions, such as the SCRI study conducted by Dr Ross Tsuyuki, of the University of Alberta, in 2002.

In order for pharmacists to make these interventions, they need to hold a greater level of responsibility than is currently available.

Prescribing rights promises this, by enhancing our ability to make interventions, change medications when necessary, follow up more closely with our patients and ultimately alleviate some of the costs to our health-care system by enhancing patient outcomes. Pharmacists are the most accessible health-care professionals, and can therefore take patients out of wait rooms by providing non-acute care services, such as refilling prescriptions for a diagnosis already obtained.

Pharmacist prescribing is an exciting new innovation for our health-care system in an attempt to promote its sustainability. Pharmacists in essence have been prescribing for years, assisting patients with colds, allergies, headaches and other conditions that can be treated with over-the-counter medications. The Alberta government has opted to extend the responsibilities of pharmacists so that they can provide optimal care to their regular patients, with appropriate due diligence. Diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and arthritis are chronic conditions that are becoming increasingly

prevalent in our aging population. In order to reduce the burden on the already overworked medical doctors, allowing pharmacists to take on even a greater role will shorten wait times and ensure that patients are experiencing the best care possible. Pharmacist prescribing is introducing us to a new era of a sustainable health-care system.

ROSE GLEESON  
Alberta Pharmacists Students' Association

*Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca.*

*The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.*

*Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study and student identification number to be considered for publication.*

## LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

### Proposed 'SUB' a poor use of students' money

I for one am opposed to the Students' Council's plans for a new Students' Union Building. What is the justification for such a building at this time or even in the near future?

There certainly are plenty of occasions when the present building is not used at all, and taking into account the availability of classroom space in the University of Alberta as a whole, we may safely say that this utilization is less than 30 per cent.

It seems hardly justifiable to spend the amount of money contemplated when the crying need is not for more buildings but better

education. How many students on this campus could use a proportion of \$4 million to improve their intrinsic educational needs? Quite a few, I'll wager.

The prognostication of the number of students who will be attending this campus of the University of Alberta is likely to be highly inaccurate. Judging from the size of large universities in concentrated metropolitan areas of the United States, it appears that there is a limit to the number of students that can be accommodated on anyone campus. I suggest that this limit is being approached at the Edmonton campus.

Even if, however, the limit should be 20 000 students and 20 000 students should attend this campus, is it right to force these students to pay for facilities on which they had no part in deciding? Will students be willing to pay perhaps \$75 and more per year in Students' Union fees? Has the Students' Council

ever asked even the present students' body about their plans?

These are questions to which I, and others, would like to hear answers. Perhaps part of the answer lies in the answer to the question: Are the majority of students getting their money's worth now, at the present scale of Students' Union fees?

I think that as long as membership in the Students' Union is compulsory, it is reasonable to expect some economy in its operation. To construct buildings for no economic necessity other than that of contractors shows a callous disregard of the rights of ordinary students.

D HOHN  
6 December 1963

*From the Archives is a semi-regular feature where the Gateway runs historical letters that we feel are of particular importance—or are just really hilarious.*



# The lid's off the Coke deal—but it's all just a bunch of fizz



ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI

With the end-of-semester papers and parties awaiting them during the first week of December, students could be forgiven if they failed to notice the presence of a trio of out-of-place faces at the last Students' Council meeting of 2006. However, while a group of three wise men might have been more seasonally appropriate, the three employees of Coca-Cola—along with one University Administration representative—that did show up at Council Chambers on 5 December came bearing gifts of their own. Gifts that were much appreciated, but long overdue, for all University of Alberta students and for the Students' Union.

In 1998, the University, SU and Coke entered into an agreement that provided Coca-Cola with a monopoly on cold beverage products on campus for a decade. In return for this right, the SU and University divided up a pool of money every year. However, they also faced the prospect of Coke being able to continue their monopoly on campus for two extra years—without having to pay for it—if the beverage giant didn't reach its sales targets. While students endorsed this deal in an SU plebiscite, the exact numbers in the deal were never revealed, as Coca-Cola maintained that disclosure of the information would affect their corporate competitiveness—a not uncommon move for agreements of

this nature.

However, it would appear that time, along with the prospect of another plebiscite vote, has partially eased Coca-Cola's fear of full disclosure of information to students. When the three Coke employees spoke to Council just over a month ago, they announced that anyone with valid student ID could wander into the Students' Union office in SUB and ask to see the contract, provided they didn't make any copies of it.

**This new "openness" that Coke heralded in December is simply deception—a sop to induce students and the SU to trade away our freedom of choice for money.**

This is great improvement from the eight previous years, when only a handful of people knew that the quota for the U of A campus was—as I remember it, since, like something out of *Mission Impossible*, I couldn't make any notes until I left the room—276 000 cases over ten years, and that the SU and University split a \$667 000 piece of the pie annually. But the solution still leaves a lot to be desired if students are to be expected to ratify an extension of the agreement.

You may say I'm being overly cynical by suggesting that another impending vote and the fate of their monopoly was enough to motivate Coke to increase the details of the contract disclosed to

students. However, having attended the meeting and heard the Coke employees explain the reason behind their company's newfound openness, I'm not being cynical—I'm just being realistic.

Jim White, Coca-Cola's manager for Northern Alberta, said directly that the company "had nothing to hide." But when asked about what had changed over the past eight years that turned a once-secretive contract into something that could now be publicly disclosed (albeit in a limited way), he dodged the question. Add to this the fact that Coca-Cola has been dallying on a Freedom Of Information request from this newspaper that would have made the contract public sooner—and that Coke has been overruled in two similar cases at British Columbia schools—and it's hard to agree that they really have nothing to hide.

Before the SU draws up a question asking students to endorse a contract extension, they must make Coca-Cola agree to a real form of free and public disclosure where any student or media organization can copy and distribute the contract as they see fit. This new "openness" that Coke heralded in December is simply deception—a sop to induce students and the SU to trade away our freedom of choice for money. Before students should be asked to participate in any debate about the merits of making these kinds of deals, we should and must have full, unrestricted access to potential contracts so we can inform ourselves about what we're voting on.

Until that happens, anyone making the trip to Council to offer a contract, a newfound "openness" or any other gift, should be treated skeptically until they can prove that they really have nothing to hide.

# The economics of addiction



MICAH BROWN

An interesting phenomenon, observable in campuses throughout the world, is the speed at which new ideas are accepted by university students. Some professor or author writes a book, and soon his particular theory is the norm, not the exception, on campus.

This tendency of students to attach themselves to the latest academic fad can be beneficial, but it can cause social problems as well as solve them. Consequently, it's important to remember that just because an idea is new, doesn't mean it's progressive.

My chosen discipline, economics, isn't immune to this tendency, despite it being known as "the positivist social science." Economists often accept the popular consensus without questioning the premise on which it is based.

Take, for example, the policies many economists advocate to deal with the problem of drug addiction: they argue that the legalization of addictive drugs would be socially beneficial.

Their reasoning goes as follows:

illicit drugs are illegal, so suppliers of the drug will demand a high price for their product as compensation for the risks of going to jail or of death due to gang-related activity. These higher prices in turn end up causing many social problems: addicts engage in theft, prostitution and drug dealing to pay for their fix, and the problem of addiction is spread to every level of society.

**These activities are acts of desperation, not rationality. Addiction is a disease; people who are addicted know that the high won't satisfy them, yet their body demands that they use it.**

Thus if anti-drug laws were removed, it follows that drug prices will fall, and the crime associated with addiction and the black market would end, making life better for both addicts and society in general.

While this argument makes sense in theory, it's based on the general assumption economists make: that people make rational decisions to maximize their long-term satisfaction. For

most people this assumption is reasonable, but can we really apply this condition to the addict? I mean, how many people do you know who set it as a goal to become drug addicts or who rationally choose it?

These activities are acts of desperation, not rationality. Addiction is a disease; people who are addicted know that the high won't satisfy them, yet their body demands that they use it.

Because of this fact, it's doubtful that legalizing drugs will lower prices substantially, if at all, because an addict will demand drugs no matter what the price. This would cancel out the social benefits of legalization. Furthermore, there's a strong current of libertarian ideology among legalization economist advocates, so we should be all the more skeptical in accepting these conclusions as simply pragmatic.

Ultimately, prevention seems to be the best method of dealing with addiction. But to truly make an effort to prevent addiction, we have to ask questions that have uncomfortable answers: what social and economic forces cause addiction? In any event, although legalization of illicit drugs might, theoretically, ease some of the symptoms of the problem, they won't cure it. Instead, academics should advocate policies that address the causes of addiction, like poverty, abuse and lack of education.





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